

Crunch Time For the Celtics

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 2, Issue 15
May 25, 1987



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K.C. Jones **A Coach For All Seasons**

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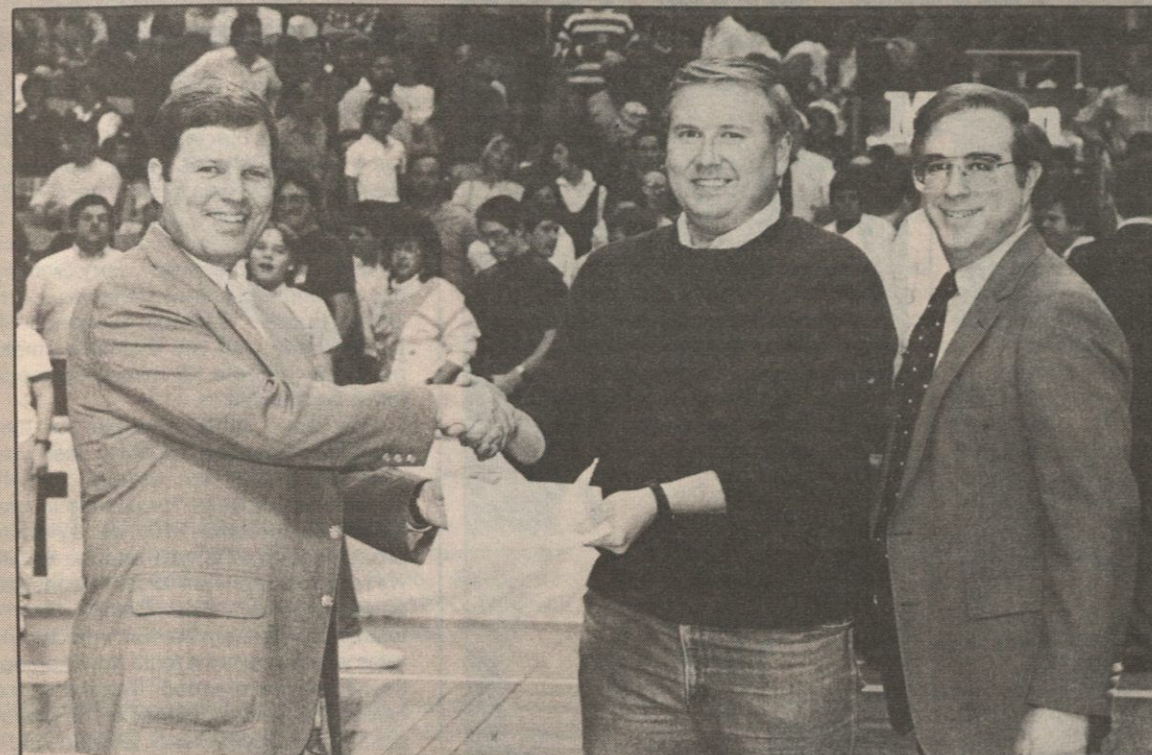
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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Nestle Day at the Celtics-Nets Game on Sunday, April 19th



Sunday, April 19th was Nestle Day at the Boston Garden. Prior to the Celtics game against the New Jersey Nets, the Celtics invited the ten finalists in the Nestle Crunch and Chunky "Favorite Celtics" Sweepstakes to a pre-game party at the Blades and Boards Club, hosted by Celtics' players Bill Walton and Robert Parish. Each of the finalists, and their guests, were presented with an authentic Boston Celtics Starter jacket. Then, they engaged in a written trivia contest to determine the

Grand Prize winner.

The winner of that contest, and the recipient of the Grand Prize—a trip to Los Angeles to see the Celtics play the Lakers next season—is Don Butler of Hampton, New Hampshire. Presenting Mr. Butler with a congratulatory letter in the photo above, taken at halftime of the game, were Fred Tobey of the Nestle Food Corporation (left) and Celtics General Manager Jan Volk (right).

Fifth In Kodak Poster Series In This Issue!

The Kodak/Celtics Pride pull-out poster series continues in this issue. We at Celtics Pride and all the good people at Kodak hope you enjoy this special feature. Poster Photography by Steve Cadrian.

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

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Cover . . .

K.C. Jones' career with the Celtics has been constantly successful. As both a player and coach, he's been a champion. His regular season and playoff victories amount to an extraordinary coaching ability . . . truly the Celtics Coach for all seasons.

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4 Celtics Defense: Shake Rattle and Roll

Coming off the regular season, the Celtics commanded the nation's attention with their offensive prowess. But the rest of the league knows that their defensive skills are just as keen.

8 K.C. Jones: Great Player, Coach and Man

Few of his predecessors have possessed the skills and personality necessary to surmount the obstacles and achieve what K.C. has. His commitment and sincerity has earned him respect from all quarters.

19 . . . Crunch Time for the Celts

After the grueling schedule and travel of the Regular Season, the battle weary Celts start to revitalize for the playoffs. "Crunch Time" when the big guns start booming and banging under the boards. Here's a status report of the Celtics' preparations in defense of the ring.

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Celtics Defense Primes for Second Season Shake, Rattle and Roll

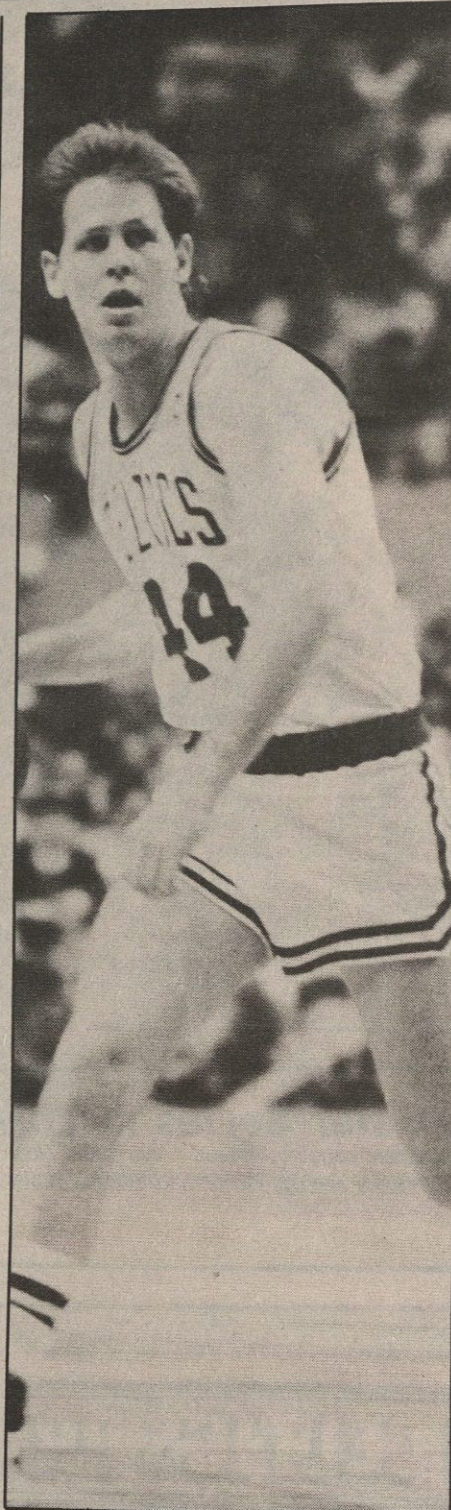
As the Celtics prepare for the playoffs, a primary focus of attention will be on their defense. Boston opened the postseason against the Chicago Bulls for the second straight year. This meant encountering the league-leading scorer, Michael Jordan. Jordan averaged 37.1 ppg this year and became only the second player with Wilt Chamberlain to score over 3,000 points in a single season. If Boston won this initial series, they would play the winner of the Milwaukee-Philadelphia series.

The stress against Jordan was on the defense, a defense that allowed 106.3 points per game this season. (This tied them for 3rd in the league.) It's a defensive unit that features several team and individual looks, from a strategy which encourages double-teaming to an attack which draws players to a middle manned by talents such as Robert Parish, Bill Walton, and Kevin McHale.

The abilities of Parish, Walton, and McHale are the most overt. For every exciting tomahawk jam by Michael Jordan over a Bill Walton, there are exhilarating stops by Parish and Co., rejections which send the ball straight back and often lead to a fast break on the part of the Celtics. McHale ranked seventh in the league this season with 2.27 blocks per game.



McHale: Two and a Half Blocks a Game.



Danny Ainge: Hounding Defense.

Besides the blocks, however, the Celtics have other defensive talents on an individual level. Dennis Johnson has been nearly an annual selection on the All-Defensive Team. This is a powerful man with an attitude defensively which K.C. Jones admiringly describes as "grouchy." But DJ has more than anger going for him on defense. He has long arms, long fingers, and lightning quick hands, the better for stealing dribbles. His steal of Magic Johnson in Game 7 of the 1984 Final clinched the first championship of the Jones era. Danny Ainge is a "hound," according to teammate Scott Wedman. Ainge chases ballhandlers end-to-end, as exemplified last week against Atlanta, when he took the key Doc Rivers out of the Hawks attack. Ainge's speed and aggressiveness provide instant resistance for Boston against opposing teams. Other

features of the C's individual defense include Larry Bird's court awareness, which enables him to zone off expertly on the weak side (the side away from where the ball is) as well as to steal passes. Bird is also an excellent shotblocker. Off the bench, Boston is reinforced by Greg Kite's position play and strength, Jerry Sichting's mental toughness and quickness, Darren Day's hustle. Walton's presence—his timing ranks with Bill Russell's—makes the Green Team a 48 minute supportive force for the Celtics.

"We make subtle changes for every team," commented Sichting last week after the Celtics ran through forty-five minutes of defensive formations in preparation for Jordan. "But we try to approach each game with an idea of what we're doing as a team which is consistent game-by-game." The Celtics, like all teams, double-team Jordan; ironically, the rules which prevent a team from zoning in the middle (the dreaded "illegal defense") helped the Celtics defense in the playoffs past. In the 1985 Finals, Boston had its greatest success against an aroused Kareem Abdul-Jabbar when they unhesitatingly, relentlessly ran Danny Ainge down into the low post to double and harass the Lakers Center. This attitude is crystallized in fact in one of the many Celtic team defenses. Boston will go after opposing teams with aggressive double-teams and the entire defense will react accordingly.

"You don't shut a player like Michael Jordan down," commented K.C. Jones, who made a career out of all-out work on the defensive end. "You hope to contain him. Jordan is like Larry; he takes three-quarters of your confidence away from you as a team because he has so much ability. As a defense, you're constantly challenged."

Other features of the pro game are attractive besides the spectacular individual talents of a Jordan on offense or Parish on defense. Defensively, the Celtics will play a post man one of two ways. On an individual approach, Parish, for example, will play behind the man and attempt to contain him. Or a second way to defend the post-up is for the defender to play between the ball and the player in the post ("fronting him"). Then, the team defense must react accordingly; if the ball is lobbed over the defender's head, the team must help out by sagging into the middle. There are other variations of team defense, including switching through the multiple picks (This is how Johnson injured his shoulder, fighting through picks set on him as he battled the Jordans, Moncriefs, and Wittmans) and defending against the fast break in the open floor. In the latter situation, the defense must "match up," playing defense against men in their (the defense's) areas and possibly staying with the offensive player throughout the 24-second clock offensive possession. Even if that player the defensive man is guarding is a mismatch.

"Michael Jordan is a challenge but then so is Charles Barkley of Philadelphia or a team offense like Milwaukee's," says Jimmy Rodgers, Assistant Coach of the Celtics.

"I have no easy nights," adds Johnson.

Ask Red Auerbach



EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: Recently I heard a rumor that the Celtics are not going to play any games in Hartford next season. I hope this is not true. The Connecticut fans love the Celtics too and we look forward to having them come to Hartford.

Eileen Garrity, Chester, Ct.

RED'S ANSWER: Put your mind at ease, Eileen. We will certainly be playing games in the Hartford Civic Center next year. Although the NBA schedule won't be completed until mid-summer, we are planning at this time to play three regular-season games and one pre-season game at our "home away from home." While I admit that packing up and bussing down to Hartford is not as simple as playing in the Boston Garden, I can tell you that, for us, the pluses greatly outnumber the minuses. We have put together a good record in Hartford, and we will probably continue to play there for many years to come. We welcome the chance to expand our fan base beyond the greater Boston area, and we have appreciated the great support the Connecticut fans have given us.

QUESTION: How can I get tickets to a Boston Celtics game? During other games, I've seen tickets advertised, but never tickets to a Celtics game.

Amy Russell, LeRaysville, Pa.

RED'S ANSWER: As of this writing, we have had sellout crowds at our last 310 games at the Boston Garden. That's an incredible record, topped only by the Portland Trailblazers in professional sports. I'm glad to report that it's very hard to get tickets to Celtics games; in fact, even I can't get as many tickets as I'd like to. Obviously, that's the kind of problem that any team would love to have; I believe that we have the best fans in the world and they've gone crazy for our tickets ever since Larry Bird came to town. This wasn't always the case, though. Back during our dynasty years, we struggled to average 10,000 or so fans a game at best, featuring some of the best teams and players ever to play the game of basketball. That was disappointing to me then, but now I realize that what we were doing then was laying the groundwork for the fan following we have now. We were really introducing pro basketball to the Boston area at that time, and it took some time to take hold. But what's happened now is that the next generation of fans has grown up appreciating the game and the way we play it. Still, we have always made a point of withholding some tickets from season ticket sales in order to be able to offer them on an individual game basis to the general public. Even though we could sell the building out with season tickets—maybe even many times over—we won't. It's hard to do, but we're trying to make our tickets available to everyone, at least until we run out.

QUESTION: How is possession of the ball deter-

mined at the beginning of the second, third and fourth quarter?

Michele Mudgett, Meredith, N.H.

RED'S ANSWER: Except when the ball is tied up between two opposing players, there is only one jump ball per game in the NBA; obviously, it occurs at the beginning of the game. The team that wins the opening tap also gets the ball at the beginning of the fourth quarter, and the other team gets the ball at the start of the second and third quarters.

QUESTION: A commercial during nationally televised NBA games shows Larry Bird making an incredible shot. On a fast break, a pass to Larry is overthrown, but Larry chases the ball, gains control and shoots from behind the backboard, with the ball going over the backboard and into the net. Did the shot count as two points, a turnover or what?

Tonya L. Sweatt, Mauldin, S.C.

RED'S ANSWER: I remember very well the shot you mention; it was one of the most amazing shots I've ever seen. Unfortunately, it didn't count. There is a specific rule that applies to this situation. It says, I believe, that any shot that passes over the plane of the backboard will not count, whether it hits the rim and then bounces up and over the backboard or is shot, like Larry's, from behind the board.

QUESTION: With the modern players making as

much money as they do, how can you motivate them?

Denny Sternberg, Sacramento, Calif.

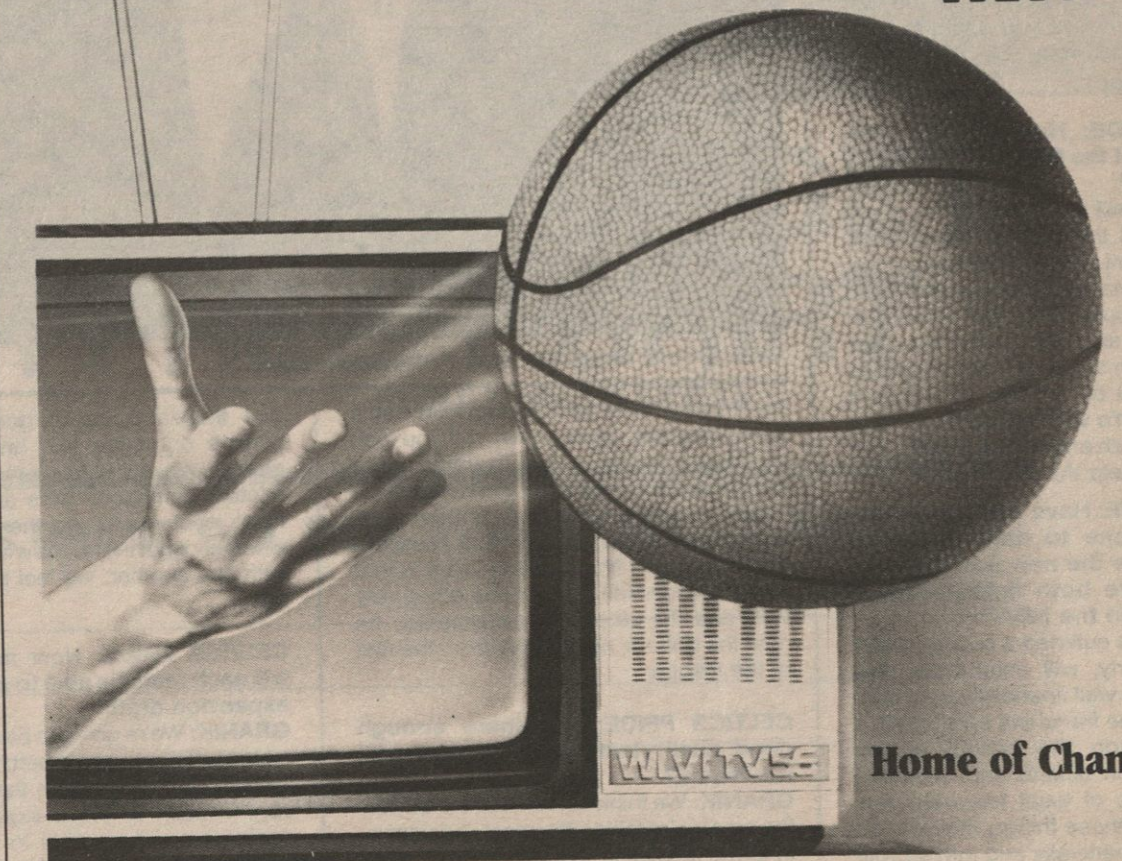
RED'S ANSWER: Pride, that's all. Pride of excellence and of accomplishment. I believe that when the players are out there on the court, they are thinking about basketball, not about money. I always like to tell our guys during the playoffs, "Wouldn't it be nice to go around all summer and say that you're a member of the greatest basketball team in the world?" Everybody wants to be the best at whatever they do. And I think that pride extends down from management to the players. Our players know they can depend on my word or anyone else's in the organization, and that makes them secure and happy here. As a result, they want to stay, and they'll do whatever they have to do to win and stick around.

QUESTION: Can't something be done about the officiating in the NBA, particularly when slow-motion replays show clearly that a call was incorrect?

Robert C. Richards, American Fork, Utah

RED'S ANSWER: I take it that you're suggesting the use of replay cameras to examine an official's call during a game, like the National Football League used this year. I don't favor it. I've said in this column before that the NBA officials have the most difficult jobs in the world; I don't always agree with them, but I respect their integrity and honesty and I seriously believe that they are the best basketball officials in the world.

When the Celtics are away... they're at home on 56 WLVI



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Innerview

Russ Granik Looks at Expansion



Russ Granik: Executive Vice President of NBA

the first year. In terms of on the court, that's something you never know... If you look at Dallas as the best example of a franchise becoming competitive quickly, I think they were viable in their third year. But there's no road map for this. I suspect that what you'll find in a few years is that two of the four will probably be doing very well, and the other two will probably be near the bottom, no different from the rest of the league.

CELTICS PRIDE: Are there enough good, quality ball-players around to fill the teams?

GRANIK: We think so, but that's probably the area we're taking the most criticism in, in terms of adding the four teams. I think

that there's a lot of good basketball players out there that aren't getting a chance to play, to some degree it's relative, somebody wins and somebody loses each game so the true issue is whether or not the teams were competitive with one another. We feel this will be the case.

CELTICS PRIDE: How many players will each team be able to protect in the expansion draft?

GRANIK: We're going to have two expansion drafts, one right before the '88-89 season, and one before the '89-90 season, in each of those expansion drafts each team will be able to protect eight players. The two expansion teams coming

in over successive years will alternate in selecting players from existing teams, but each existing team will only lose one player. So, one expansion team will end up with twelve players, the other team will get eleven.

CELTICS PRIDE: In the second year, will Charlotte and Minneapolis players be protected from the expansion draft held for Miami and Orlando?

GRANIK: Yes, they won't lose any players to these teams.

CELTICS PRIDE: What conferences will the new teams be placed in?

GRANIK: That's the trickiest part of the plans so far. When Minnesota comes in it will go into the midwestern division of the western conference. The other three teams will eventually all end up in the east, but they're going to rotate through the midwest division as well. They're each going to spend one season in the midwest division at different times throughout the three year span, but by the fourth year you'll find Miami and Orlando in the Atlantic Division, and Charlotte in the Central.

CELTICS PRIDE: Do you feel this may create a feeling of displacement among the fans at all?

GRANIK: No, I don't think so, especially when you consider that for a little while, these new teams won't be likely to compete for a division title anyway. The real point here is that the fans following these new teams will get a chance to see all the NBA teams come in and play frequently, so those folks will get to see an overall brand of NBA basketball.

CELTICS PRIDE: What other sources of players will be available to the new teams other than the dispersal draft?

GRANIK: Basically the same sources that we have now; there'll be rookies coming in, with additional help from the CBA and any additional players who may have decided to play in Europe. I mean I think that there's no problem for existing teams to fill that ninth or tenth spot on their rosters. The difficult part for an expansion team is the starting to build that nucleus of players to build around... the key players, and that does take some time.

CELTICS PRIDE: Will this expansion affect the viability of the CBA?

GRANIK: I don't think so, no the CBA will find that it may cost them a few of their better players for a year or two, but I think that they're still going to be a good "minor league" and the purpose that they perform for us still will be very important. You're still going to need replacements all the time and with more teams in the NBA, there will be more of a need to replace injured players during the winter. So I don't see any negative impact on the CBA. I think the CBA is proud of the fact when their guys get into the NBA, and I'm sure when their season rolls around we'll hear them touting how many of their players got into the NBA.

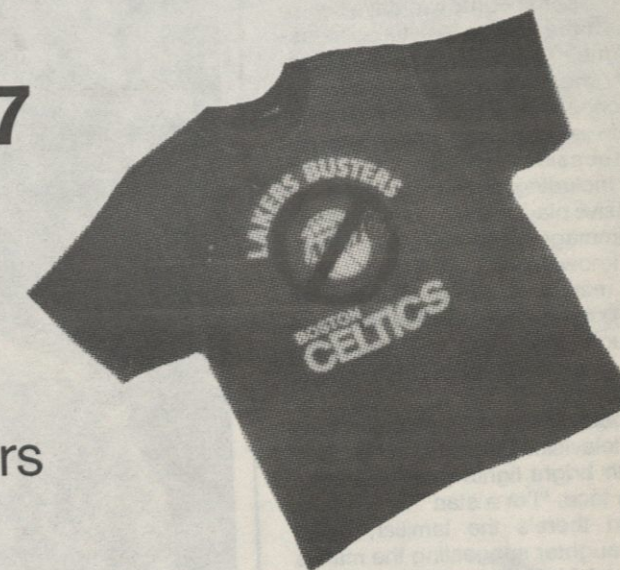
CELTICS PRIDE: Will this expansion affect the playoff structure at all?

GRANIK: No, not at all.

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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

K.C. Jones Charts A Course For Success A Coach for All Seasons

By Bob Schron

KC. Jones is standing on the sidelines at practice, an important one: two days before the Celtics are to open defense of their National Basketball Association championship. The attire is casual; Jones is wearing a green Celtics jacket, tan slacks, and sneakers. His practice session this day had been stringent including stretching, offensive and defensive play execution and four full-court scrimmages with games to seven. To begin knowing K.C. Jones is to view him as a man living his profession, the coaching profession, which has dragged him through the fields of humiliation before he was finally able to recover and achieve stardom.

K.C. Jones will admit as much. In front of Boston television cameras he has flatly stated, with bright lights glowing on his handsome face, "I'm a star!"

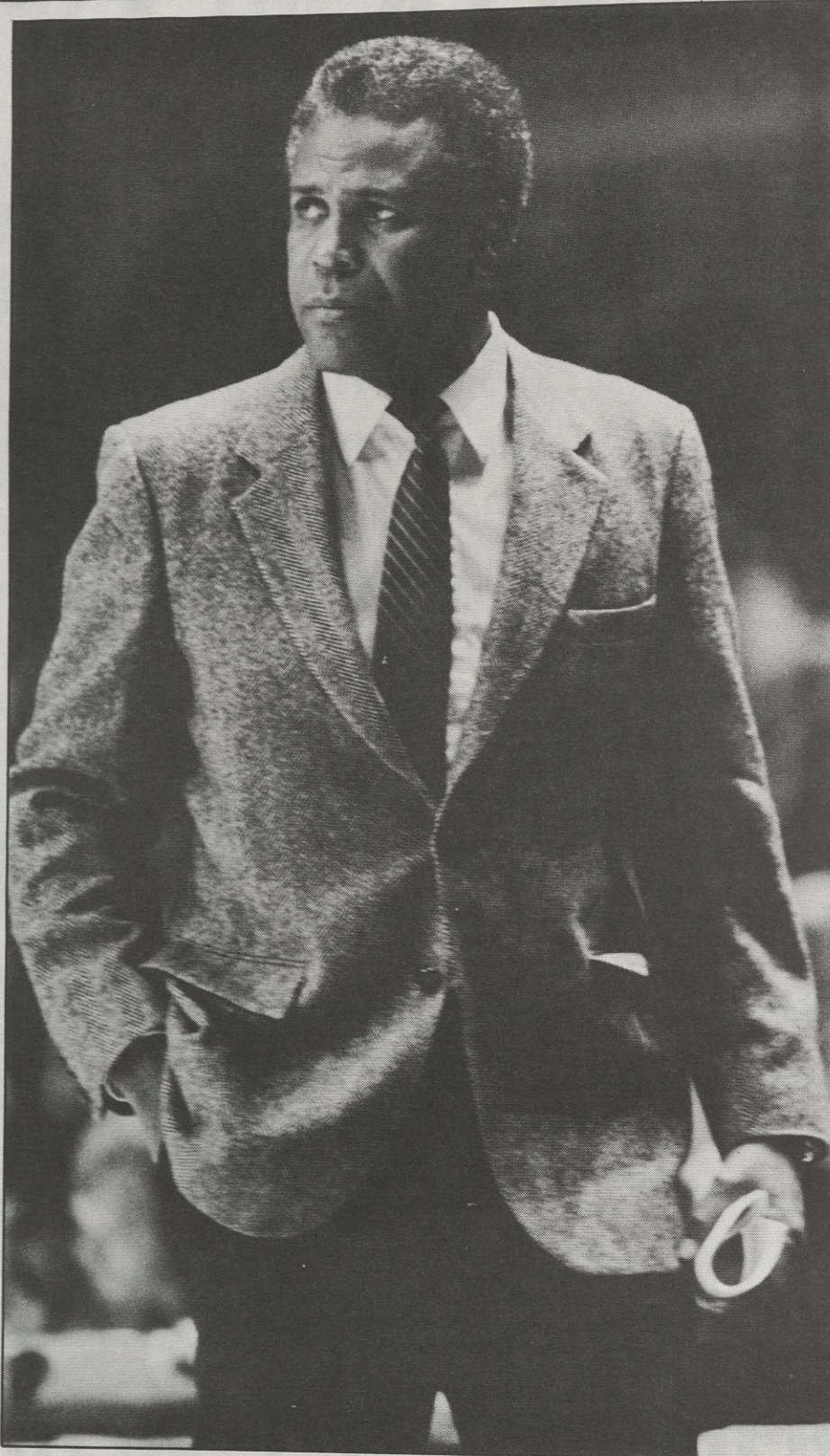
But then there's the familiar, deep, explosive laughter suggesting the man is poking fun at himself; humble and wise. K.C. Jones, Coach of the Celtics who when asked to state his views about coaching the Larry Bird Boston team stated in his autobiography (with Jack Warner), "A large part of my approach to coaching young professional basketball players is to treat them like professionals. To give them a very large role. They're the talent. They have the creativity and imagination and these dynamic qualities must be allowed to come out."

Jones's practices are works of art because they perfectly imitate life in the NBA. With a team like the Celtics, men of extremely high self-motivation, it is self-defeating to push players through exercises to sharpen their game on a daily basis. For example, one day after the Celtics had defeated the Atlanta Hawks, 118-107, to clinch the Eastern Conference title, the team was asked to be at Hellenic College for three hours the following morning. But the session was film, stretching, light shooting, because the team had been through an extremely rigorous and demanding week before that morning. But the following day, Jones had worked them hard. Understanding the rhythm of a season and an individual game are strengths of K.C. One of many forces.

Practice now over after the team has joined together in a group at halfcourt to join fists of solidarity, Jones stands with his back to the sidelines watching as the team breaks up into several small groups, shooting, laughing, and playing. Symbolically almost, Jan Volk, General Manager of the team is sitting behind K.C., as is Red Auerbach, President. Volk comments on the reasons K.C. is so effective. "Like other things which are outstanding, if you could analyze easily, there'd be no mystery. But I think K.C.'s success as a player has influenced his style as a coach."

"K.C.'s a player's coach. He understands the pressure on the athlete and he knows what it takes to win. He conveys this to the team in every facet of the game."

Asked how Jones has improved as a coach, Red Auerbach points to the way he



K.C. Jones: A Player's Coach.

uses his bench. "A much better bench coach," Red offers, "and his time is much better organized on the practice floor. No wasted motion."

An encouraging story: Jan Volk, Red Auerbach, and the Boston Celtics solidly behind K.C. Jones, viewing him as their leader on the floor. This proud sensitive humorous detached man had been convinced only four years ago that his head coaching career was through. Wrongly; he had taken the Washington Bullets to the Finals in 1975 before losing in four straight games to the Golden State Warriors. For three reasons: The Warriors outplayed Wes Unseld-Elvin Hayes Bullets, on a roll behind Rick Barry.

Because of a scheduling problem with the arenas in Washington and Oakland, the Bullets forfeited their earned homecourt advantage (Washington played only the first game at home, then two in Oakland. The Warriors upset the Bullets in Game One and went home with momentum). Finally, the Bullets weren't as good as people thought. K.C.'s job was never secure after that and one season later, he was dismissed.

As he points out in his book, he is a man who had to struggle from the beginning of his life against segregation in Texas and the angry violent attitudes which accompany that system. After his parents separated when K.C. was fifteen, as the

eldest, he felt compelled to support the family after they had moved to San Francisco. He was a figure of power, but repressed by the thinking of the South in the Depression years. His initial means of self-expression was sports, eventually basketball. At Commerce High in San Francisco, he was the all-time leading scorer in schoolboy history and this won him a scholarship to the University of San Francisco. It was there that the nucleus of Jones's success in the game came into being.

Perhaps it has to do with K.C. Jones's heritage—Black; Cherokee and Cheyenne Indian, German Jewish, perhaps Volk's allusion to mystery, maybe Jones's own rocklike character that brought him into direct relationship with three of the best minds in the history of the game. The first of these people who entered Jones's life was Bill Russell at USF. Two of the greatest defensive players and thinkers roomed together at San Francisco; in both men's books they relate basketball defense to vertical and horizontal angles and breaking it down to real terms, forcing players to take shots that they, the defense, want them to take. Russell would dream of blocking shots, jumping, flying through the air! Which is where USF found themselves, winner of 60 straight games and two national championships. In the 3rd round of the 1956 draft, K.C. was chosen by the Celtics and after winning an Olympic Gold Medal and serving in the army, he joined Boston in 1958 to take part in eight titles as a (first) reserve defensive guard and later playmaker of the team. With the Celtics of course he rejoined Russell and played under Red Auerbach, the man who Jones refers to as an encyclopedia of basketball.

"The thought never would have entered anybody else's mind," Jones said last week of Auerbach's decision to hire him as Coach. "And our relationship developed from father-son to 'Red' and 'Case'." This transition of course accompanied Jones's own career progression from player to coach. It is a success story usually not written by black athletes. "The unique character of the Celtics is that they hire you if you're qualified," continued Jones. "There's politics involved everywhere. But Boston isn't concerned with image. Most organizations operate out of fear but Red is his own person."

So is K.C. His playing career ended in 1967 and he coached at Brandeis University outside of Boston, then in the ABA and finally after coaching under another former Celtic, Bill Sharman, in Los Angeles, he was hired by the Bullets in 1973. In three seasons with the Bullets, he was 155-91, but was released after the 1975-76 season. Tom Sanders brought K.C. back to Boston in 1977-78, and for several years before he was again head coach, Jones's life was rocky by his own assessment. He worked under Bill Fitch for four seasons and the two disagreed about matters as intimate as coaching philosophy. And his personal life was changing, finally happily resolved when he married Ellen Thomas Jones, a special woman of femininity, intelligence, and kindness. K.C. Jones's personal belief system stresses "understanding, above

all else," he says. But he is realistic above all else and he was prepared to go on in sports as a lifetime assistant, ready to cope with life even if it were bitter rather than sweet.

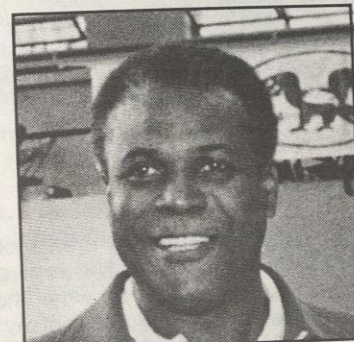
At practice last week Jones summarized his thinking about coaching and his career. "I think there is a differentiation between 'success' and 'winning.' Success implies a long, long period of time. Winning is for now. My coaching philosophy is (derived) from being associated with winners on all levels: NCAA, Olympics, the Celtics, the Lakers, and back here again. These experiences are a dictionary of what success is about. I observed everything—the core which forms in winners. The camaraderie. You have to key in on strategy and fundamentals, but you have to be sure the team is in the right frame of mind."

Jones's intelligence is comprehensive and this perhaps above all has made him coach of the best franchise in sports. The 3rd great basketball mind (with the aforementioned Russell and Auerbach) is Larry Bird. As coach, Jones praises Bird's brilliance, team leader of a player's game. Yet, Bird symbolizes a conflict for Jones. Namely, if you give complete praise to the team when they win and ignore yourself, you, as coach, will probably nevertheless be damned if you lose. "But the experience in Washington taught me to see criticism for what it is. I have no control over recognition. All I can do is concentrate and do a good job at winning

basketball games," Jones points out. A major reason K.C. was fired from the Washington job was because during Game 4 of the '75 finals, his aide, Bernie Bickerstaff, was shown on national television diagramming a final play while the image of Jones silent nearby was beamed over the screen. Despite the fact that this is Jones's leadership method, delegating authority, and despite the fact this is the assistant coach's role in many cases, Jones's momentary stance there didn't fit the image of the American Boss in Charge. Despite this bitter misconception about his ability to lead, Jones has had the courage to remain resilient in his coaching approach. The results have spoken for themselves: two titles in the past three seasons and over 400 coaching victories.

Finally, this is a renaissance man, one who loves his work, and appreciates art, song, reading, cooking, family, and humor. One day during the final week of the regular season, the Celtics were preparing for the last road game against the Pacers. They had dropped nine of their last ten road games and they were under pressure, mostly self-induced. During that practice, the team botched an offensive set and K.C. walked onto the court from the sidelines. In a scene that had tension as its context, Jones stared at Danny Ainge, and said something. The two men broke out laughing, and smiles spread throughout the team. The next night, the Celtics played their best game in weeks, winning 108-85.

Self-Portrait



K.C. Jones

BIRTHDATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: May 25, 1932 at Taylor, Texas
GOALS IN BASKETBALL: Have a successful team

GOALS AFTER BASKETBALL: Work half a day. Play golf, play tennis, fish a little bit. Get out of the rat race. I think you're so busy trying to stay on top... the sky's the limit after you've done it all. But once you're at the top, you still have to fight and scratch to stay there.

FAVORITE PERFORMERS: Jesse Owens, Ted Williams, Jackie Robinson, Larry Bird, Dennis Johnson, Bill Russell

IDEAL EVENING: Dining out and having the meal make the rest of the night. Then dancing and listening to music.

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT TIME/YEAR WOULD IT BE AND WHY? Back to my junior year at the University of San Francisco when we found out we could become a good team and eventually became monsters, defeating everybody.

PEOPLE IN HIGH SCHOOL THOUGHT I WAS: Shy
I HOPE I NEVER HAVE TO: Work
MY MOST REPETITIVE FANTASY: Winning Megabucks

THE BEST TIME I'VE HAD: Winning the 6th game vs. Houston and winning the championship in 1986

THE WORST TIME I'VE HAD: Trying to get an interview for a coaching job between 1977 and 1982

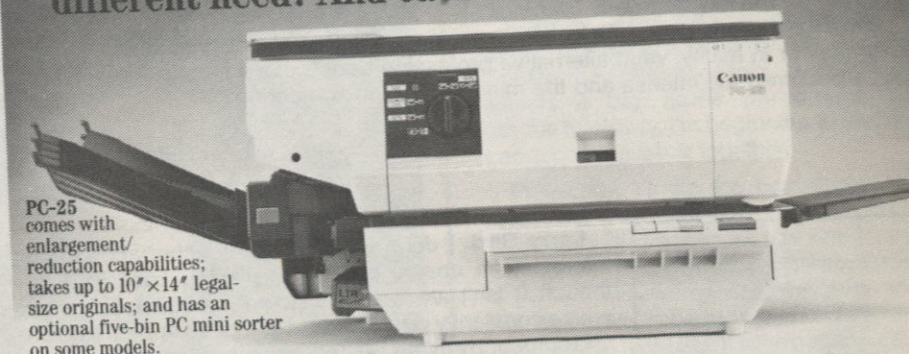
LAST BOOK READ: *The Aquitaine Progression* by Robert Ludlum

FAVORITE MEAL: Cornbread and Cabbage in Tabasco Sauce
IF I WENT TO THE MOON, THE PEOPLE I'D BRING WITH ME: My wife and a pillow

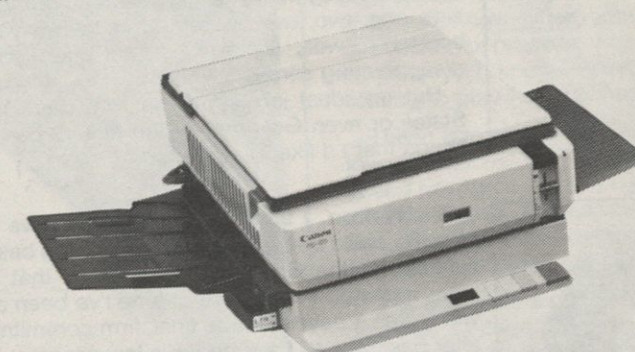
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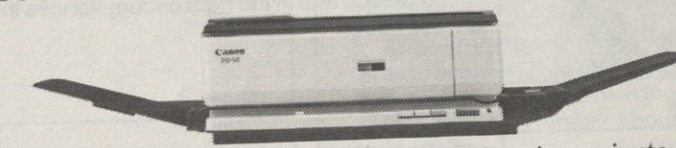
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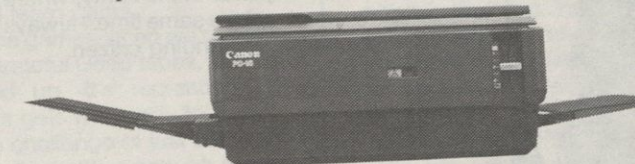
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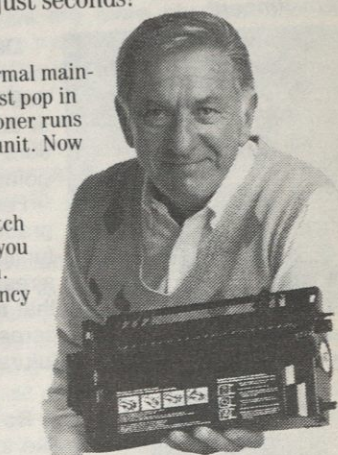
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Celtics Perspective

What Profession Would You Choose if You Weren't a Basketball Player?

What types of professions do the Celtics think of as alternatives to their storied and glorious careers as professional basketball players? Many of the Celtics have presently developed businesses while still playing; for example, Robert Parish has worked seriously in the past two years to become involved in real estate in the Boston area and Bill Walton has finished half of the program for the law degree at Stanford.

While the playoffs began, *Celtics Pride* pursued this area of thought further. Whether in fantasy or in reality, what alternative profession do the players consider when the game becomes too intense and the mind is given to wandering?



Larry Bird

Larry Bird. I don't want to be a teacher and I'm not interested in coaching. I enjoy playing basketball, although it isn't always easy going out to places when you're constantly in the public eye. For example, I'll go out and somebody might ask me for an autograph. You might sign one, two, even several, but then if you say that's enough... well, it never is and then you're always disappointing somebody.

But my ideal job would be President of the United States or even Governor of the state. I can see a lot of things that I'd like to change.



Bill Walton

Bill Walton. I think I have no alternative profession. Nothing could be better in life than playing basketball and listening to the Grateful Dead. Except that my injuries have lessened the amount of time I've been able to play worry-free. I haven't made final, firm commitments to life after basketball. I have begun a law program at Stanford and that's a possibility. Also, I have worked in sports broadcasting and in the right circumstances that might be an alternative.



Sam Vincent

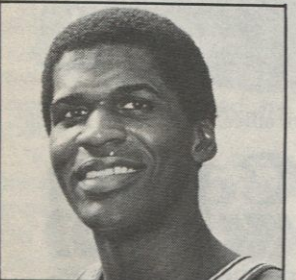
Sam Vincent. I have contemplated a life as an auto racer but then I realized I only enjoyed that in movies. My fantasy is to be a skydiver in the Army, where I could fly and serve my country at the same time. I always want to be thought of as a fine, upstanding citizen.



Darren Daye

Darren Daye. If I weren't playing basketball, I'd be working at some job in California. At this moment, I don't see any alternatives to playing basketball. I have a degree in Economics from UCLA but it's too theoretical. I'm not sure what I could do with it after leaving the game and going out into the business world.

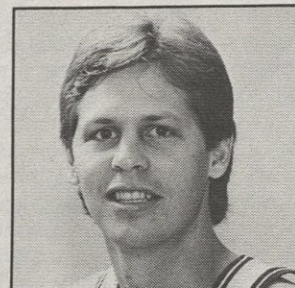
Fortunately, basketball as an immediate career after graduation has opened up many contacts and opportunities for me. I think there are choices available to me as a result of meeting people through the game. I'm grateful that there are doors open to me because of my athletic career; I see what I'm doing now as an investment in my future.



Robert Parish

Robert Parish. I've played basketball so long I think I'd like to play it forever.

I run a basketball camp during the summer and that's been very enjoyable so I'm looking forward to developing that. But a possible future career would be to run a nightclub or a restaurant/club, where people can enjoy themselves in a cozy atmosphere.

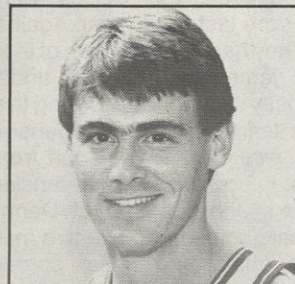


Danny Ainge

Danny Ainge. If I wasn't playing professional basketball, I'd be either a 3rd baseman or a center fielder with the Toronto Blue Jays. Probably a 3rd baseman, because Lloyd Moseby is outstanding in Center for the Blue Jays.

If I weren't playing either sport, I'd be a rock star. I like the money and the work isn't too hard, as they're not too difficult in my present job.

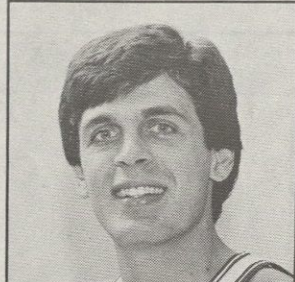
I'm fortunate in work. Everything is fine except for the excessive travel and the constant dealings with the media.



Rick Carlisle

Rick Carlisle. I've majored in school in psychology but right now I'm not thinking of using it when I'm through as a player. My musical interests remain strong, but I think I'd continue to enjoy them if they remained an avocation.

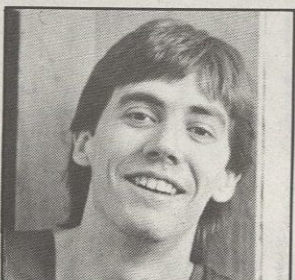
My ideal career after playing is to go into sports broadcasting, preferably basketball. I enjoy both the college and the professional game.



Kevin McHale

Kevin McHale. My alternative to playing basketball would be to be fishing somewhere in the Minnesota woods. Friends around... and time would be no factor.

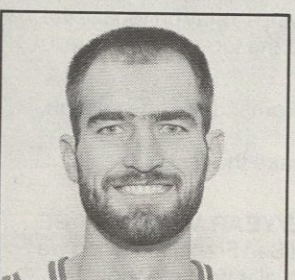
But in the real world, I'm married with three wonderful kids. I couldn't think of a more delightful career than being assistant general manager of a sports franchise, probably hockey. If there's a bad move, you just point to the general manager as the one who made it.



Conner Henry

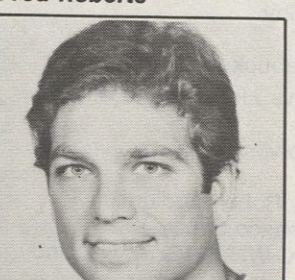
Conner Henry. My dream job would be surfing off of the California coast. No worries except how to ride the waves and what to do when they take you.

In reality, I grew up most of my life on college campuses and I enjoy the collegiate environment. It's where I developed most of my basketball skills. But I don't see myself coaching there, and I'd like to coach kids, probably at the high school level.



Fred Roberts

Fred Roberts. I'd like to be a baseball player. But since that's not possible, I think I'd like to go into teaching as an alternative to basketball and possibly even I'd do it after playing. The thought of that is impressive to me because of my own experience in school. I had a few teachers who had a good influence on my life while I was growing up. I honestly believe education makes a difference, especially today.



Jerry Sichting

Jerry Sichting. I think if I weren't playing basketball, my life would have been completely different, considerably quieter. I think I'd end up being a chicken farmer in Indiana. I'd like that; be my own boss and let the conditions of the environment and the land dictate my working schedules.

Then, my family life would be different, too. I'd have five sons by then and I'd delegate the working chores to them. I'd sit in the kitchen and drink whiskey. Pass the time peacefully.

Celtics Diary

For the second time this season, Bill Walton has returned to the Celtics lineup and he has contributed to the Celtics season once again. Last season, he played in eighty games after playing in 67 the previous year with the Clippers. Apparently, he couldn't withstand the stress applied to the foot and this season he was forced to miss 75 games. Yet, facing an easy choice of not playing at all, he came back on March 11th against Phoenix which was two weeks ahead of schedule. After playing four games, he was again aching. He missed the next eleven games and K.C. Jones was forced to admit that "He wasn't counting on Walton." Jones stated this April 6th.

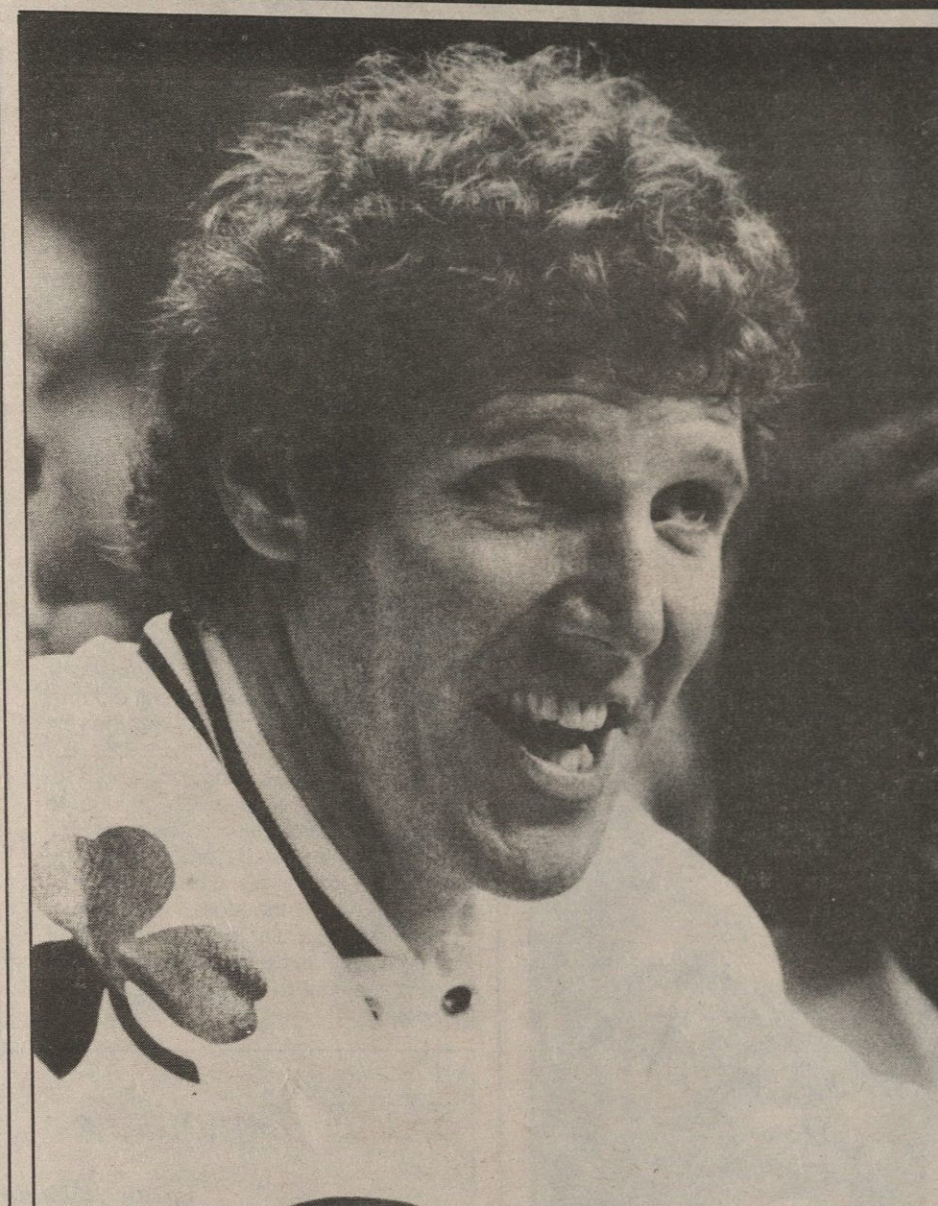
Walton again didn't quit. He begins his diary with his decision to resume practice, April 14th. The team was about to go to Indiana for their final road game of the season.

Tuesday, April 14th. I spent the previous three days shooting and working out lightly at Hellenic College and it was at that point in time that I decided to go on the road with the team. I have spent so much time during basketball seasons on crutches that being out of the lineup isn't a new thing to me. I'm asked frequently about regrets in this business but there are none to speak of publicly at this time. I try to deal with realities and my situation right now is simply helping the Celtics win basketball games any way possible.

I went through an hour and a half practice with the team. The leg still bothers me and it was tense out there at times. But I needed to begin somewhere. God willing, the leg will feel OK tomorrow (in Indiana) and I'll be able to go out and contribute.

April 15, Indianapolis. We won big tonight against the Pacers and for the first

Bill Walton: Ready for the Stretch Run



Bill Walton: Experience and Strength.

super rhythm this season and K.C. Jones has basically established a substitution pattern he's comfortable with.

I want to be out there for the big minutes. I always have. But at this late point in the season, I'm not complaining, despite the lingering feelings. My battle is an individual one, I'm afraid. To be out there and feeling confident about my game, on an individual and team level is really my goal right now. And for the Celtics to win.

Sunday, April 19. We played a big game, defeating Atlanta for the Eastern Conference championship, 118-107. It wasn't a big game personally but gradually, slowly, I'm beginning to feel my game coming back together.

Physically, I'll do the best I can but really, the goal right now is on the team level. Larry Bird generates so much for the team on the court: his ability to score from anywhere, his awareness of the game and his defensive rebounding. He sets the pace for this team and it's the beauty of the club: you know when you come to the gym, either for practice or for a game such as this, you know everybody else is coming to play (and play hard), too.

These games are the type of games I love to play in. The Hawks had a great year. They force you to play your best, or else you'll lose. The games are physical. But I'll never be disappointed when they're played that way.

The team had a party after the game at Hellenic College. My wife's family is in town, and the celebration was sweet. We just need to continue building toward a championship.

At least there will be some goal I'll be able to achieve. This year I had planned to play in every game and win the championship. I failed miserably about playing in every game.

April 25, Boston. We win the first playoff game against the Bulls at home, although they nearly steal it after we have built up a substantial first half lead. I play nine minutes, but at least it's different than Sunday; my touch around the basket is better and I'm able to help in a 3rd quarter rally. We get the game, 108-104.

Playoff time is the time of the year when the games are more physical, the defenses are more intense, and you have to adjust. I thought we just didn't do a very good job at either attacking them offensively or making adjustments defensively, especially when Michael Jordan was penetrating. We were extremely fortunate to come out of there with a win.

I'm available to do anything the coach wants me to do. I told him that at different times over the past two seasons. Whether it's rebounding, passing, setting screens. I think I'm a good shooter, when my foot's feeling all right. But unfortunately it's still sore. I'm reconciled to that as I'm reconciled to the way this season, and even my career, has turned out.

I was asked last night if I thought the Bulls had gained confidence after playing us a tight ballgame.

If a team doesn't have confidence in themselves after making the playoffs, I feel sorry for them. How can a team feel more confident after losing a basketball game?

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time in weeks, it seems, we're out there playing a total team game.

I'll drive to the games when we're home and listen to Grateful Dead tapes, with the volume turned up. It's recreation, it's relaxing, and it gets me ready to play.

Tonight, the challenge of just being out there again was incentive enough for me. And my timing was all right although admittedly I forced myself to be overly aggressive. I think after being out of the lineup so long, I was forced to approach the game that way. The press was after me in the post-game interviews but there isn't much to say. It's fun to play basketball and that's what I like to do most in life. The Celtics have been unbelievably perfect for me; I couldn't have received any more support from management or my teammates either last season when I first joined the team or this year, which has been so miserable personally.

Friday, April 17. In basically a warmup type of game before we play Atlanta on Sunday, we defeat the Bulls, 108-105. I play 11 minutes. It's frustrating out there at times. I think there's a tendency to want to come all the way back at once when you've been out of the lineup for as long as I've been. Was I winded out there? Well, how can you be winded when you play 11 minutes? It's not easy for anyone. I believe in my abilities and I think I'm able to help the team anytime I'm out there. But the team on the other hand has achieved a



K.C.s Corner

Black Coaches

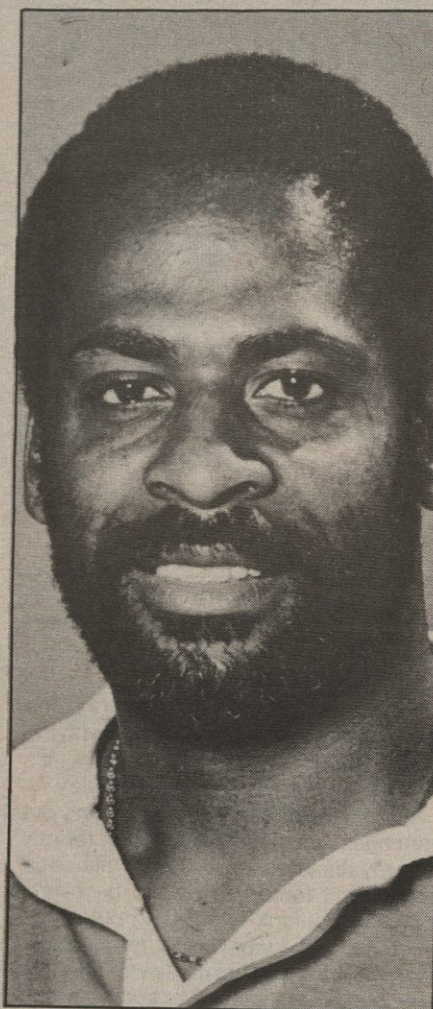
The recent controversy stirred up by Major League Baseball's Al Campanis about the so-called lack of qualifications by blacks to lead major league baseball teams brought out into the open a battle that has remained in sports for as long as I have been involved. As a black athlete or coach in the industry, you know it's all against you. It's hard and often unfair but it's also reality. If you have any hope of staying in the business, you must survive and hope that your time will come for promotion to the job you've always aspired to.

I can only speak from my experience in professional basketball. I worked my way up through the ranks in college, the Eastern League, the American Basketball Association, and as an NBA assistant before finally landing my first shot with the Washington Bullets in 1973. After being fired there after three successful seasons, I had to wait eight years for another shot; with very strong qualifications, I had only one interview with the Chicago Bulls for which I had to call over and over for even that.

But this is the situation and it is one which is characterized by precedent and politics. There are some outstanding assistant coaches in this league, including Willis Reed (Atlanta), Gene Littles (Chicago), and Fred Carter (Washington). Reed and Littles have been head coaches in the league before and Reed, particularly, did well in New York and at Creighton University under some trying circumstances. Littles was an interim coach at Cleveland, a thankless situation.

Yet image and tradition often supersede reality and thought. Last week under the spotlight of our final game with the Hawks, Reed was interviewed by the media, who continually referred back to his (Reed's) past as a player. No mention about his experience as a (good) coach. I was told of this, and it didn't surprise me, nor the report that Willis didn't offer protest about this oversight. Willis is doing a fine job in Atlanta but there is no incentive to offer protest that he is losing, at the moment, in the political race for jobs in the league. You see it: while people like Reed wait far down the line, men who have coached four or five teams are ready to be rehired. This is the political reality of the head coaching situation in our league.

Yet, it is vital that these types of slights be endured by people like Willis or a Don Chaney. To be there is to be a role model

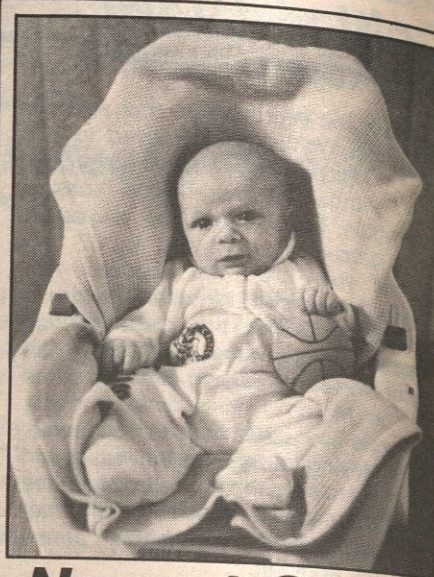


Don Chaney: Right Man for the Job.

for blacks to have a career after playing on the field. This type of endurance paid off for Lenny Wilkens (who was an inspiration for me while I was thinking my situation was hopeless) in Cleveland and for Bernie Bickerstaff, who was my assistant in Washington and who also worked under Dick Motta and Gene Shue after I was released.

I had to laugh finally; there were several General Managers who were surveyed around the league about the possibility of positions opening up for blacks around the league. One GM was quoted as ascertaining he "didn't want to get involved." It was amusing in a darkly humorous way. People didn't want to get involved and that is why I thought my head coaching career was finished for eight years.

We drew the Chicago Bulls as our first round opponent with mixed feelings. We were glad about earning the first spot in the Eastern Conference for the playoffs and gratified about winning and playing so well in our final regular season game against the Hawks. But Michael Jordan is brilliant and he has the ability to lift a team up with him. We're working hard and we feel like we belong squarely in the middle of the race for the championship. We battled injuries and we were forced to juggle lineups. We didn't come together really as a team until our western trip after the All-Star Game, and I feel happy that we did at that time. Although we did let down—I felt strongly that we needed to rest our injured players even if it did cost us some momentary defeats—at the very end of the year, I firmly think that our cohesion gained throughout the final two-thirds of the season will continue to improve our team play throughout the playoffs. In the postseason, there are no easy rides and every game is a must contest. I can't therefore, write down preferences regarding opponents. Even if I could, I wouldn't give opposing teams reading material to use as incentive for their teams.



Newest Celtic

The newest addition to the ever-growing Celtics family was welcomed into the world on Thursday, March 26, 1987, when Sarah Johnson, the wife of Celtics' Director of Sales Duane Johnson, gave birth to a son at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Kyle Gregory Johnson weighed in at 7 pounds and 6 ounces, at a height of 21 inches long.

Kyle is pictured above, already in uniform and working on his ballhandling. Celtics Pride and the entire Celtics organization are pleased to extend sincere congratulations to Duane and Sarah Johnson and to welcome Kyle, the newest Celtic, into the family.

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By Tony Cooper

To many retired professional basketball players, entering the "real" world can be quite a culture shock. The ex-player finds out his shooting ability, rebounding prowess or shot blocking skills don't do him any good in corporate America. Some never adjust to life after basketball.

In an effort to alleviate the problem, the NBA has launched a program with the PACE Center for Career Development, a San Diego-based company headed by baseball star Steve Garvey. All 23 teams will have the chance to meet with PACE representatives—many clubs have already done so.

A 30 percent turnout rate was expected by PACE president Ronald J. Stratten, but the turnout rate has been around 70 percent.

"There are guys with five, six, seven years of NFL or NBA experience that have never worked," Stratten said. "They have zero experience. You tell that to a potential employer and..."

"What we're trying to do is identify within the athlete an awareness as to where he is to career plan outside the NBA and to assist him in any way possible."

"It's something I've been working on for five years," said Charles Grantham, executive vice president of the NBA players association. "It was clear that the league had little interest in career development, so it became a union concern."

The program emphasizes what a player should be thinking regarding post-basketball matters, rather than job placement. Stratten says PACE gives the entire team a 20-30 minute presentation. Then players go through an exploratory interview (1½ hours long) that deals with career goals. PACE people also talk to wives.

Stratten says the key is to insure players get the necessary education and experience to pursue opportunities outside of basketball.

The players association paid PACE \$5,000 per team, but PACE received funding from three corporations—Anheuser Busch, Merrill Lynch and Hewlett-Packard.

"Basically, get them started to thinking about the future before it's upon them," Stratten said. "Most guys think they're not going to be cut. Frankly, they all are. Everyone in the room will have their career end, probably before they want it to end. They should make plans now."

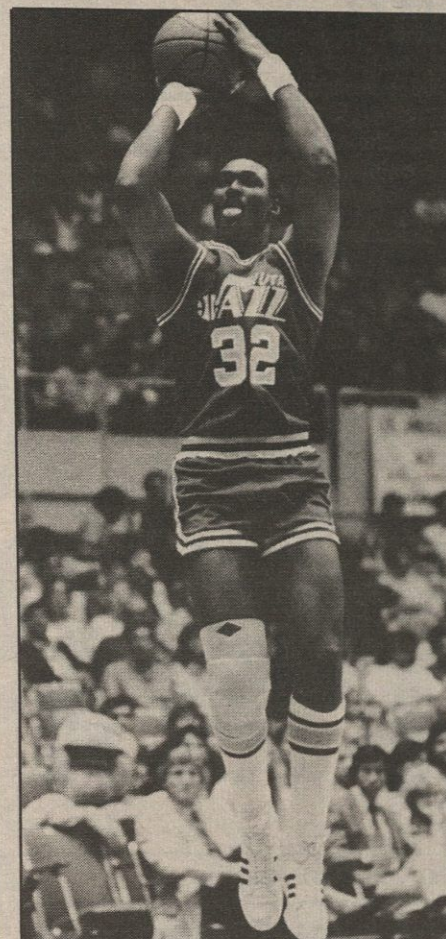
"A lot of traumatic things take place when the career is over. There's no crowd noise, and the athlete discovers his self-esteem has been tied to a ball—basketball, football, whatever. When all that finishes, he's left there saying 'Where are all the people? I thought they liked me.'"

"Now that he's finished, they don't have any time for him. He goes into a semi-depression. He's home more, he doesn't have any direction and he doesn't know where to get it. So he may turn on himself and do some pretty destructive things."

LEGAL DEPT. A federal appeals court ruled recently that the NBA may be able to restrict movement of its teams. The decision revived the league's suit against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Despite its rulings in the Los Angeles Raiders football antitrust case, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals said the NBA

Supreme Court



Karl Malone: Head Steppin.

could go on trial on its claim that its restrictions on teams were valid under antitrust laws and were violated when the Clippers left San Diego for Los Angeles in 1984.

"We are obviously pleased by this result and look forward to a prompt trial on the merits," NBA general counsel Gary Bettman said.

The same court upheld a jury verdict that said the National Football League had violated antitrust laws by using team owners' veto power, under league rules, to block the Raiders shift from Oakland to Los Angeles.

However, the court said the Clippers' attempted move was a different case. **WARRIOR WEIRDNESS:** The Golden State Warriors, who won the NBA title in 1974-75, made the playoffs for the first time in 10 years this season.

And it's been interesting stuff, never mind that they opened against a game opponent in the Utah Jazz. Warrior rookie forward Ben McDonald was injured in a car accident the day before the opener, near an Oakland shopping mall.

Police said the driver of the car, 50-year-old George Webb of Oakland, had been shot twice after an argument in a nearby playground, got into his car and drove a short distance before losing control of his car and slamming into six cars, most of them parked.

Webb died the following day. "I was getting ready to turn into the parking lot," McDonald said. "I looked into my rear view mirror and saw this guy going 65 or 70 miles an hour."

"He plowed into us, hit another car, went over the divider and was going toward traffic coming the other way."

"I found out later his wife shot him when he tried to hit her with a baseball bat and I guess he was trying to get to the hospital or something and he just drove up and down the street, banging into things. Unfortunately, I was in his way. I was getting ready to take my nephew to the mall."

McDonald, a Long Beach State product, missed the first game of the series.

"I'm gonna write me a book after all this is over with," he said.

As if that weren't enough, stalwart point guard Sleepy Floyd, who missed a team flight from Phoenix, denied that drugs had anything to do with his absence. This was in reference to the recent scam involving the Suns.

And who suggested Floyd was involved with drugs? No one.

But Floyd called sportswriters in their hotel rooms in Salt Lake City and brought up the drug issue without any prompting.

"It comes to people's minds," Floyd said. "You're talking about a guy who never smoked a cigarette in his life. You (reporters) talk and talk and pop, it gets into the paper. It hurts my reputation and my business."

Floyd said he missed the afternoon flight to Salt Lake City after being delayed at a car repair shop. The Warriors had practiced that morning.

"I can understand it's happened in the

past with players on the Warriors," Floyd said. "But this is so ludicrous. I've never missed a game or a practice in the NBA or at Georgetown."

A few weeks before the incident, Warrior Coach George Karl said Floyd had been "daring" to miss a flight. Floyd was irked by that comment.

"I don't understand when you mean by daring," Floyd said. "I didn't miss that flight (Floyd was late to a flight for Denver, but the plane was delayed, so he got on the plane before it took off). It's like saying someone is daring to murder someone. If you don't do the murder, it doesn't get done."

Maybe not the greatest analogy of all time, but you get the point.

BITS AND PIECES: Providence College coach Rick Pitino is denying he's signed a contract to coach the New York Knicks. When Pitino was late for a session with Phoenix reporters the other day he was asked if he was out playing golf. "No, looking for homes," he said.

Pitino is a leading candidate to take over the Suns coaching slot... Jazz forward Karl Malone stepped on the head of newspaper columnist, leaping out of bounds trying to snare a loose ball. Utah coach Frank Layden was worried. "Yeah, I don't want to get Malone hurt," Layden said. "But sportswriters, heck, they're a dime a dozen"... Layden on 7-4, 300-pound center Mark Eaton, "No one has ever been wider. And nobody as wide has ever been taller."

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Eddie Gillooly

One Measly Vote

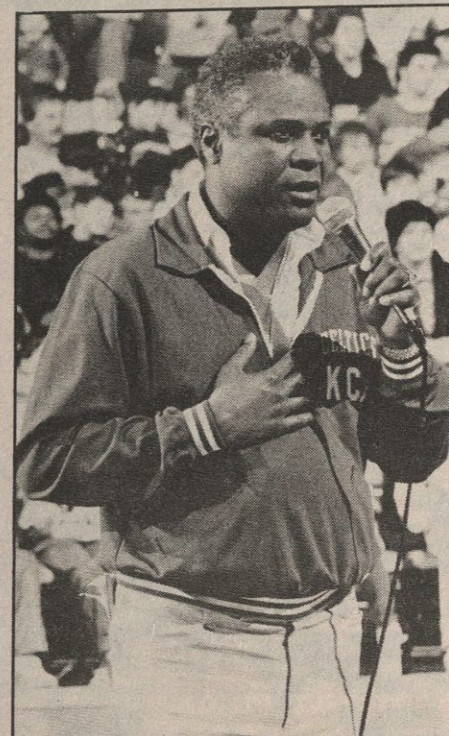
One vote. One measly vote. That's all K.C. Jones received on the ballots of the 78 writers and broadcasters throughout the country who were selected to vote for Coach of the Year. That's a farce. An outrage. The Commissioner should launch an immediate probe into what has become the "Coachgate" scandal.

These writers and broadcasters call themselves experts but they display no evidence of their self-acclaim every year

when they cast their ballots for Coach of the Year. Their annual selection has become a joke.

For some ludicrous reason or another, these writers and broadcasters ignore the coaches with the best records and search out the coaches whose teams have improved their record by eight or nine games.

Mike Schuler did a nice job with the Portland Trail Blazers in his first season as head coach. The Blazers improved by



K.C. Jones: The Best by Far.

nine games to 49-33. He deserves praise, but Coach of the Year? He received 38 votes for 49 wins. K.C. Jones received ONE vote for 59 wins. Does that make any sense?

George Karl of Golden State was runner-up in the voting because the Warriors improved by 12 games to 42 wins. Pat Riley guided the Los Angeles Lakers to 66 wins but he finished third in the balloting behind Karl. Does that make any sense?

Both Portland and Golden State have young teams that SHOULD have improved with experience. Meantime, the Celtics and Lakers have maintained their superiority and are targets every game. Every opponent is highly motivated against the Celtics and Lakers. There are no easy games. No let up.

In his four seasons as coach, the Celtics have compiled a phenomenal 251-78 record and yet Jones has never come close to winning the Coach of the Year honors. His teams have won 62, 63, 67, and 59 games and two NBA titles. He took over after the Celtics compiled a 56-26 mark in 1982-83 and has improved on that record each year.

This season was probably Jones' finest. He overcame one adversity after another and still managed 59 wins. For that, he received ONE MEASLY VOTE. That is a disgrace. Jones is the Rodney Dangerfield of the coaching fraternity.

Obviously, the voting panel had blinders on because they certainly ignored what Jones accomplished in a most trying season that started in devastating fashion—the death of No. 1 draft choice Len Bias. It was undoubtedly the most difficult season the Celtics have ever experienced.

Injuries plagued the team from the start. Danny Ainge missed the first 10 games (12 overall) with back problems. Larry Bird sat out nine games, Robert Parish three,

Kevin McHale six, Dennis Johnson four and Jerry Sichting five.

The bench was decimated with the season-long losses of the sixth and seventh players—Bill Walton and Scott Wedman. Walton played only 99 minutes while missing 73 games and Wedman contributed only 78 minutes while sidelined for 76 games.

Jones was criticized for trying to win games instead of developing a bench. What did he have to develop? Fred Roberts was acquired for bench depth. At best, he figured as the team's NINTH player. Instead he found himself at times in the key role as the team's SIXTH player.

Darren Daye was acquired in December to replace Wedman. At that point, any contribution he made would be a plus. Both exceeded expectations but the critics never understood that Roberts and Day don't have the experience or talent to replace Walton and Wedman as key bench personnel.

Roberts only played 469 minutes with Utah in 1985-86 but was on the court for 1075 for the Celtics this past year. Daye, despite his limited role when he first joined the Celtics finished with close to 750 minutes as compared to 1000-plus minutes with Washington the previous season.

Walton and Wedman combined for 2900 minutes in the 1985-86 season. Jones had to fill that time—more than 2600 minutes with Roberts, Daye and Greg Kite during this troubled year. Still, the Celtics lost only eight more times than the previous season.

Also in the championship season, the five starters missed only 20 games—McHale was sidelined for 14—as compared to 34 this year. The key difference was Bird. He didn't miss a single game in 85-86. He was idle for nine this year.

Considering the injuries, the 59-23 year was fantastic. Jones called it a miracle season and that was not understated. Jones juggled lineups, strategies and philosophies. He got the most out of what he had.

When the media was ranting and raving about the Celtics road woes at the end of the season, Jones did not panic. He gave his starters the necessary time off to heal their wounds. He did not succumb to the pressure.

Jones' greatest attribute is that he treats all his personnel with respect. He doesn't lose his cool. He doesn't wear out his players in practice and he allows them the freedom to create and utilize their skills on the court. For this he gains their respect.

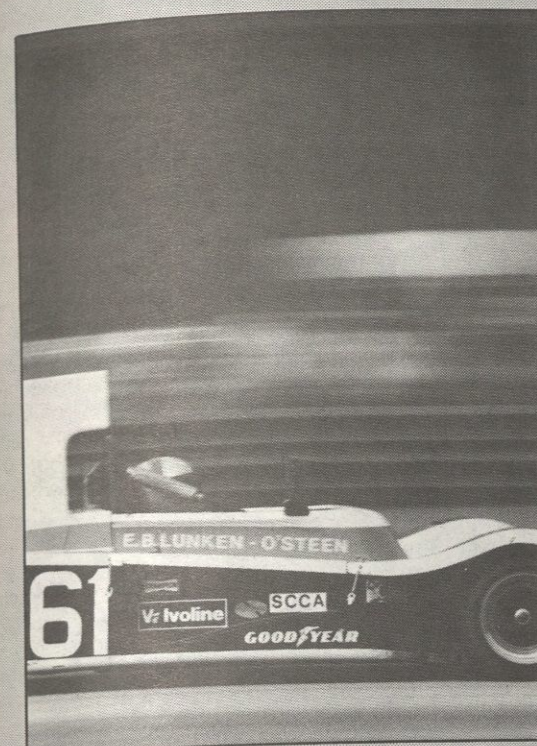
If any other team won 59 games with their ninth and tenth players performing in the key roles, it would have been recorded coast to coast, heralded as the most fantastic feat in NBA history.

But people expect that kind of season from the Celtics so it doesn't matter how it was accomplished. Mike Schuler coached the Portland Trailblazers to eight more victories than the previous season and won the Coach of the Year award. Jones' Celtics win 59 games and he gets ONE vote. Give me a break.

Jones and Riley have difficult jobs. They are expected to win every game during the season. Anything less is a letdown. But they are winners. They are winners because they know how to handle people and utilize talent. Not everyone can coach a winner because they let their own egos interfere with the team's chemistry.

Jones and Riley have the championship rings as proof of their coaching talents.

Kodak/Celtics Pride Photo Contest Winners



2nd Prize: Thomas J. Carey



1st Prize: Jack Swedberg



3rd Prize: Jo-Ann Frigon

Picture above are the first, second and third place winners in KODAK/CELTICS PRIDE photo contest. First place finisher is Jack Swedberg from Center Harbor, NH. With his picture Mr. Swedberg has won the opportunity to sit courtside and photograph an upcoming Celtics game. In addition, he

has won a Kodak K-12 35mm camera; "Season of the Shooting Stars," the 1985-86 Boston Celtics Video Yearbook; a personally autographed color photo enlargement of his favorite Celtic; and a complimentary year-long subscription to **CELTICS PRIDE**. Second and third place finishers in this month's contest

are Thomas Carey of Westfield, MA and Jo-Ann Frigon of Coventry, RI, respectively. Each have won a copy of the Video Yearbook; a personally autographed color photo enlargement of their favorite Celtic; a year-long subscription to **CELTICS PRIDE**; and Kodak film.

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Boston Celtics Crossword Puzzle

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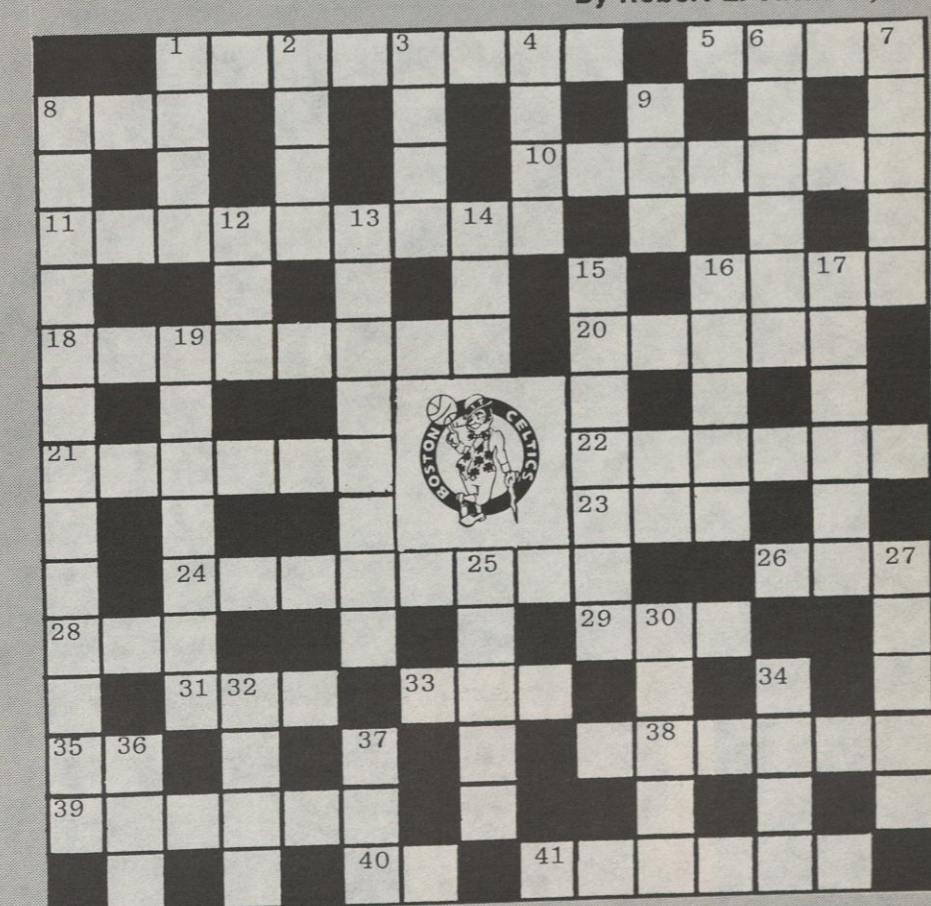
ACROSS

- NBA team that lost the most games in 86-87 season
- Color of a Celtics T-shirt
- Old pro basketball league
- NBA team division
- Second season classification of a player
- Blood _____
- A game can be won by this slim margin
- Pathway to the HOOP
- _____ an intentional foul
- Narrate
- Printers fluid
- Fearful manner
- _____ martini
- Small child
- A former Celtic: _____ ROLLINS
- Greek alphabet seventh letter
- Phone company initials: _____ & _____
- Chris Ford
- Journey
- Understandable method
- Thomas Kimball
- KEVIN _____

DOWN

- Summer training _____
- Within
- Spanish coin
- Crime
- Give-away contest
- Pleasure boat
- NBA championship team
- Caught in the _____ of shooting
- Part of the body
- Dampness
- Decay
- AINGE'S birthday was on this SAINT'S honorable day in 1987
- Time factor machine
- Seafood
- A former Celtic: _____ BRYANT
- A former Celtics coach
- Loud cheers from the crowd
- This land of ours
- Strip of cloth
- Wickedness
- Capable
- _____ down!

By Robert L. Jackson, Jr.



Solution on Page 23.



Dennis Johnson



Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

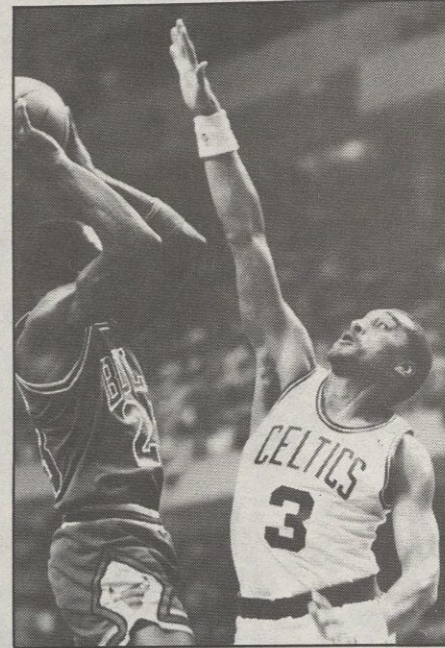
Coach of the Year. Of the many skillful coaching jobs done in the NBA this season—among them **George Karl** in Oakland, **Mike Schuler** in Portland, **Pat Riley** with the Lakers, **Doug Collins** in Chicago, **Dick Motta** of Dallas, **Matt Goukas** in Philadelphia (**Tom Heinsohn** is a strong supporter of Goukas's ability), and **Mike Fratello** of the Hawks—a vote here for the Celtics man, **K.C. Jones**, featured in this issue of *Celtics Pride*. Jones combines a myriad of talents to coax maximum efforts from his troops every night. The latter two words, i.e., every night, shouldn't be glossed over lightly. Critics of the overlong NBA schedule and playoff format enjoy pointing out that most regular season games are meaningless, yet the Celtics bring it for every game, a sign of employee satisfaction under Jones. Fifty-nine wins this regular season: without a first round draft choice; without **Bill Walton** and **Scott Wedman**; with **Danny Ainge**, **Larry Bird**, **Dennis Johnson**, and **Kevin McHale** missing 35 games this year. Jones's beauty is he understands the psyche of the athlete, and from superstars **Bird** and **Johnson**, through people like **Greg Kite** who play highly specialized roles, he has the group's respect. Through a long trying season, they are mentally and physically approaching a championship form. If K.C. were coaching the Bulls and won fifty-nine games under similar circumstances, do you think he would win the award?

Dennis Johnson on his collaboration with **Larry Bird**: "Larry and I have great perception between us, I'd say, 75% of the time. We just think the same things, the same way, at about the same time out there." ... **Bird** and **Calvin Murphy**, who



Robert Parish: Celts Committed.

was at the Garden April 19 to put on a baton twirling demonstration, played three games of an informal one-on-one after the C's concluded their Saturday practice before the Big Regular Season finale against Atlanta on the 19th... Friendly, but nevertheless competitive games... **Doug Collins**, Coach of the Bulls, was standing in the Marriott Hotel of the Boston Longwharf when a writer informed him that the Bulls' closest competitor, Indiana had defeated the 76ers in a vital road game. Boston, it now looked, would be the Bulls' playoff foe. The young coach of the Bulls shook his head and muttered, "Not Boston!" ... The Bulls coaching staff, not surprisingly, did not relish the pros-



Dennis Johnson: Tuned In.

pect of the C's... **Bob Zuffalato**, former Coach at Boston College and an assistant under **John Bach** at Golden State, and now with **Bob Woolf Associates** reported players who improved and hindered their standing at the recent Aloha Collegiate All-Star classic in Hawaii: **Kevin Johnson** of Cal (helped); **Dallas Comegys** of Depaul (didn't hurt himself); **Greg Anderson** of Houston (didn't hurt himself); **Christian Welp** of Washington (hurt)... According to Zuffalato, a sleeper in the draft: **Charles Pippen** of Central Arkansas State and the former coach's prospective top three in the draft are **David Robinson** of Navy, **Reggie Williams** of Georgetown, and **Dennis Hopson** of Ohio State... As Boston and Atlanta headed into their final game showdown assistant coaches of the Bulls and Pacers respectively, **Gene Littles** and **Dick Harter** thought Boston would win. Harter predicted the outcome, thinking the home court would prove all the difference. Littles: "Boston will show the Hawks they're dreaming." ... Chicago's strategy against Atlanta was to attempt to bottle up **Randy Wittman**, the Hawks outstanding spot shooting off guard. "But not with **Michael Jordan**" claimed Littles. "We wouldn't want to wear Michael out chasing Wittman through double screens." ...

The Celtics celebrated another successful season with an annual dinner at the team's practice place, Hellenic College, the night of the win over Atlanta, April 19th... **Rick Carlisle**, **Kevin McHale**, and **Scott Wedman** spoke to an Arlington (MA) High School, April 13th about drug prevention... **Kevin McHale** appeared on behalf of the National Campaign Against Toxics in the Environment, April 20th at the Parker House Hotel in Boston... As the Playoffs approached, **Bill** and **Susan Walton** entertained her family. **Greg Kite's** wife, **Jenny Kite** was recovering from an illness which had her hospitalized for a few days over Easter Weekend...

Phil Jackson, former NBA player with the New York Knicks and New Jersey Nets, was a visitor in the Celtics locker room after the Celtics home game against

the Bulls. He attended North Dakota, where **Jimmy Rodgers** coached for a season after assisting **Bill Fitch** there... Jackson is fresh from coaching the Albany Patroons (CBA) for two seasons, reaching the CBA playoff final four both years... **Dick Harter** was one of a very few who defeated the **Bill Walton** UCLA teams in the seventies, while Harter coached Oregon. Harter on the collegiate Walton: "The win was a big one for me because I had never coached against a player as great as he was. You were never sure if he could improve after his collegiate career." Asked if he did in fact improve, the Ass't. Coach of the Pacers smiled, paused, and said, "I don't know." ... **Robert Parish** was asked if his comment about the Celtics as a group still retained the collective commitment needed to win back-to-back championships remained true after an injury-ridden season. "Yes. I think we're committed. What remains to be seen is if our health holds up and if people coming back from injuries are able to quickly recover their timing and win (conditioning)" ... **Larry Bird** and **Red Auerbach** continued to work on their video, due to be released in the middle of May... They have been involved in every phase of the development of the project, from the taping, to the editing, to the selection of game film examples of fundamentals they're teaching in the video. **Sandy Grossman** of CBS, who directed the project, worked further on the project, including simplifying graphics, when he was in Boston televising the Philadelphia-Boston game on March 29th... **Scott Wedman** unfortunately still hobbling on his injured heel, took films for his video of the Celtics' practice, April 21... **Danny Ainge** grabbed the camera after the practice ended and began aiming the instrument at the media gathered around **K.C. Jones**. Ainge commented into the camera's mike, "You know Case, this is the worst part of practice!" With this he focused in on all of the reporters...

K.C. Jones kept practices open through the opening round of the playoffs... **Bill Walton** was back at the heavy weights, lifting after practices as the Celtics prepared for the Bulls... Walton's post-game routine has been soaking the right foot in a Gator Ade cooler of ice, as Equipment Manager **Wayne Lebeaux** continued to bring small shovels of ice to his locker... **Johnny Most** remained a strong supporter of Walton's... **Larry Bird** had friend **Gary Strong** of Terre Haute in for a visit during the final weekend of the regular season. Before the game, Strong teased the Great One, saying if the Celtics lost to the Hawks, he (Strong) would fly back after the game. Bird sensed Strong was joking, but looked his friend straight in the eyes and said seriously, "Oh, we'll win." Bird went out and played one of his career best games... The Celtics practiced at the Boston Garden before the concluding regular season game... **Jeff Twiss**, Public Relations Director of the Celtics, reported that the team will probably practice more at the Garden during the playoffs to accommodate the media which has traditionally grown with each succeeding round of the playoffs.

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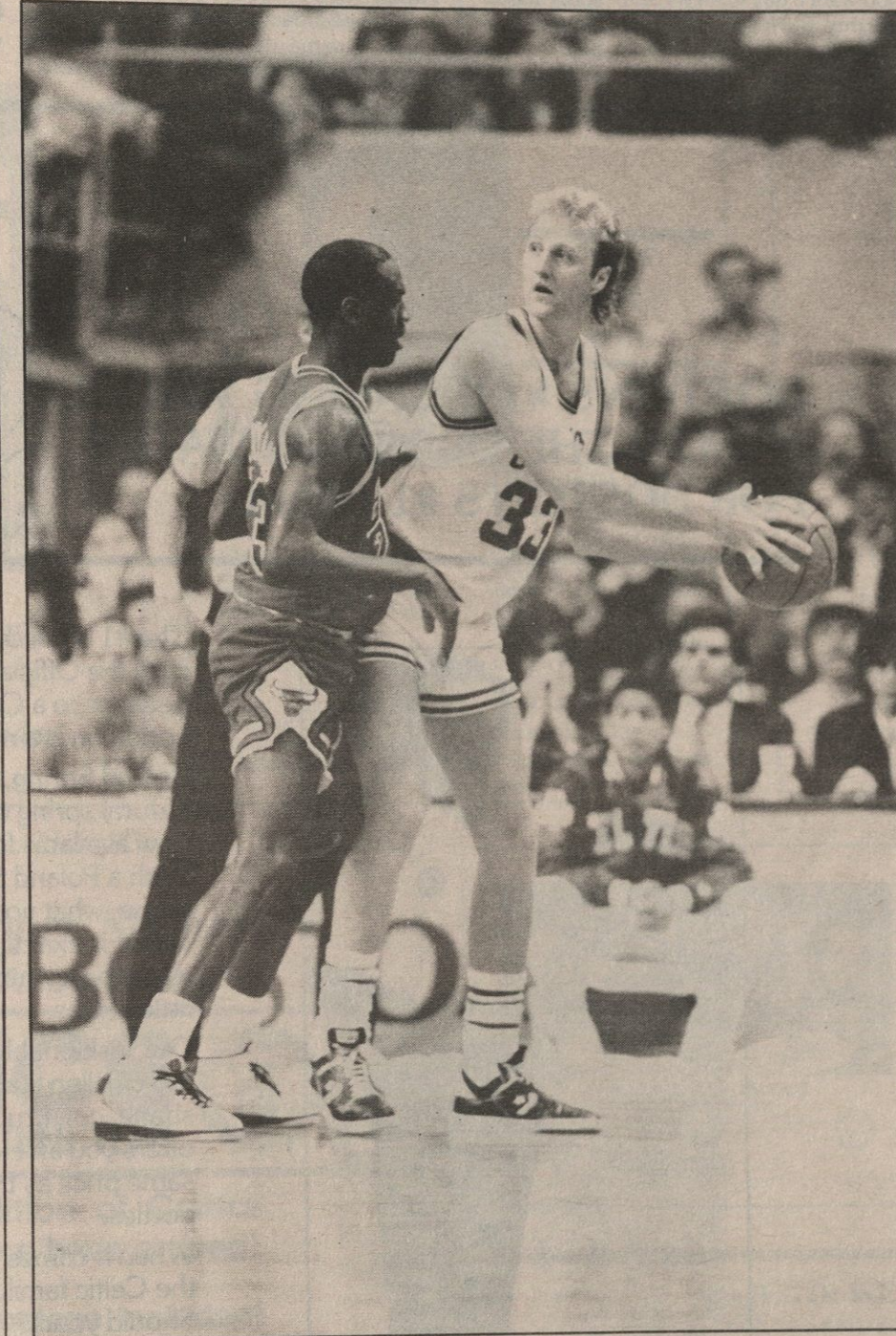


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Crunch Time for the Celtics

Champs Enter Defense of Their Title



Larry's in great shape for second season.

start playing harder, end-to-end."

Bird is asked if fatigue is wearing on the starters. "I can't believe people are tired," he snaps. "With all the days off, the timeouts, CBS. How can anybody be tired?" Someone says Atlanta won't be at New Jersey.

Tuesday, Practice Hellenic College. The news is good, the news is bad for Boston. On the floor, **Bill Walton** is in practice gear, running up and down the court for the first time since March 21. The playoffs are a week away and he's ready to test the right ankle, still sore.

It's a different Walton; people around the Celtics marveled last season about the Redhead's enthusiasm at practice, his love to just be playing. But Walton isn't that way today; he's somber, almost angry. He contests everything, but he's rusty, despite the timing on the court that he could utilize even if he hasn't played in

six months. The team senses Walton's inner battle, allows him his space.

K.C. Jones meets with the media after the practice. The team is about to leave for Indianapolis, a dreaded road game (Boston had lost 9 of their previous 10 on the road) and they will be doing so without **Kevin McHale**.

"The doctor told me we could have Kevin for 15-20 minutes," Jones declares, "but I figured, if that was the case, it would be best to leave him off the leg entirely."

"We're preparing for the playoffs. One game at this stage of the year isn't worth risking our future goal." That night, Atlanta will win again, at home against the Nets. Later that week, they will win again, on the road in Chicago, weathering **Michael Jordan's** 61 point explosion, when **Dominique Wilkins** hits a tough shot with **Jordan** draped over him.

McHale walks out of the Tuesday

afternoon practice and calmly says he isn't going, the foot still bothers him, and that he wishes it felt better.

Somebody asks him if he'll play in the Celtics' next game, at home against Chicago. "I don't know," he answers. "All I know is my foot hurts."

Friday, Boston Garden. It's a loose group of Celtics. They rout the Pacers and they feel their confidence as a team returning. **Jerry Sichting** had missed the bus to the shootaround in Indiana and had received excessive needling about it from his teammates. Sunday's game against the Hawks, as it seemed likely, would be for all the marbles and the game this night is a modified scrimmage, with Boston winning 108-105 behind **Bird's** 38.

Dennis Johnson is asked after the game if the Celtics didn't appear flat seeing how the game that night turned out to be meaningless. "You can't be flat for any game now. Everything you do has to be geared up toward making you a better team each time you go out on the floor. Anything you do has to build up the confidence of your own team and negate that (confidence) of your opponent."

"The game on Sunday doesn't have that great a bearing. If they come in on a roll and blow us out, it probably doesn't mean that much," says **Danny Ainge**. "If they come in and take our best shot and still win, well, that might have meaning."

Ainge's voice trails off and he immediately leaves. The locker room empties out early that night.

Saturday, Practice at Boston Garden. The Celtics have a strong practice; they go through a series of Atlanta plays, take shooting drills and are out in 1½ hours. Atlanta will practice immediately afterward with the Hawks' practice closed to the media. **Dr. Tom Silva** watches the team work out; the injury situation had been a hot topic all season. Now the winner-take-all game is on the line. "I think we all fail when we're not able to have a strong 12-man team out there," the doctor says, watching the team practice, all twelve in uniform. "It's the responsibility of management, the doctors, the coaching staff and the players to be ready at this time of year. Injuries have to be minimized and your bench has to be ready."

After practice, the players disperse and **Bird** and retired Houston Rocket star 5-9 **Calvin Murphy** play one-on-one. It's fun; they begin with laughter and they end with laughter. But it's apparent both men enjoy winning and they compete fiercely.

Sunday, Boston Garden. The Celtics win handily after the Hawks initial surge had the home team behind early. After that, it's all **Dennis Johnson**, **Kevin McHale**, **Danny Ainge**, **Robert Parish**, and **Larry Bird**. Later, **Bill Walton** is sitting at the front of his locker, foot soaking in a bucket of ice.

Walton is told that the Hawks are low-keying it, saying that they are pleased to be in the playoff bracket that would have them playing the Celtics only if the Eastern Conference title was on the line. They had reached their goals, win or lose in this final game. Walton looks at the speaker quizzically—"How can a team go into this game thinking anything but Win?" seems to be written on his face—"I'm glad I'm in this locker room," he says finally.

The celebration continues, the team gratified for its intensity with the chips on the table. The team was headed into the time of the year—crunch time—when they need to be glad they're with the Celtics.



Former Celtic great Bill Russell has returned to the NBA after a 10-year hiatus. He was named coach of the Sacramento Kings April 27.

Kings officials announced that Russell, a Hall of Famer, five time NBA Most Valuable Player and the center on a pair of University of San Francisco NCAA championship teams, had signed a seven-year contract and could eventually become part owner of the team.

Terms of the unusual contract call for Russell to boss the Kings from a two to four year period "to be dictated by the progress of the team," according to club president Joe Axelson.

Russell will then become general manager and eventually take over for Axelson as president. He will also have priority in buying part of the team when its ownership goes public in the next few years.

Interim coach Jerry Reynolds, who, like Boston forward Larry Bird hails from French Lick, Ind., will revert back to his role as assistant. Reynolds ran the Kings after Phil Johnson was fired in February.

"There are a lot of guys who know about basketball," Russell said, "and I know as much as any of them. . . . What I do know about is winning, and I firmly believe a great deal about that can be taught."

Russell, of course, is no neophyte when it comes to coaching in the NBA. He became the league's first black boss when he assumed the role of player coach in 1966-67. Russell led the Celtics to a 60-21 record that year, but it was the Philadelphia 76ers who took the league championship. However, the Celtics won NBA titles the next two years under Russell's leadership, winning 102 regular season games in the process.

Russell retired as a player and coach following the 1968-69 season. He resurfaced as head coach of the Seattle SuperSonics from 1973-74 to 1976-77, compiling a 162-166 mark and leading the Sonics to a pair of playoff berths. He left the Sonics in 1977 to become a television analyst for NBA games.

Russell said his friendship with Axelson was a big factor in his decision to come back to the NBA. So was Sacramento's relative closeness to Russell's home in Seattle and his hometown of Oakland, CA where his father still lives.

"I've had some offers in the past," Russell said. "But they were all on the East Coast. No way will I ever live on the East Coast."

That sort of comment is vintage Russell. He has long been known as a man always willing to say what's on his mind. Russell reportedly had major differences with several Sonic players. Critics said he lacked patience with players who couldn't do what he did on the floor.

To be sure, not many on the Kings—or on any team for that matter—can duplicate what Russell accomplished during his career as a collegian amateur (he led the U.S. Olympic team to a gold medal in 1956) and as a pro (11 championship rings). Nevertheless he believes there is hope for the Kings.

He didn't name names, but Russell said there are "five pretty good players" on the King roster. Then again, he added, none of them is exempt from the possibility of being traded.

Russell also predicted "that without too much change" the Kings could be a 500 club next season.

"I think this team has potential," Russell said. "It has a good, solid foundation and excellent management. I'm honored and

Celtics Great Returns

Bill Russell Joins Executive Ranks

proud to be here. I do know about winning—I know about winning. I know what it takes to do it.

"I told Gregg (Lukenbill, Kings owner) if you want a guy to take you to .500, I'm not the guy. But if you want to contend for the NBA championship, I'm your guy."

For a while, it looked as if Russell would

forever remain in the broadcast booth. But working with young players in a camp in Sacramento a couple of years ago made him realize becoming a coach again wouldn't be a bad idea.

"I'm very attached to the game," Russell said. "I came up here and really thoroughly enjoyed being with the players. I

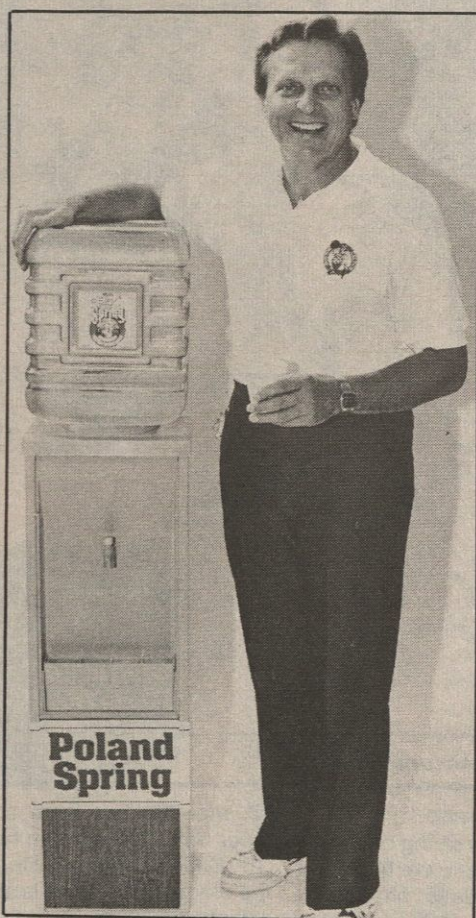
enjoyed practicing—it made me feel good. . . . Being around gave me a good feeling."

The 53-year-old Russell hopes he can transform the Kings into a squad that feels good. But Russell may do more than just coach the team. Lukenbill suggested Russell will do a lot of community relations work for the team.

Wouldn't that go against Russell's grain as a private person?

"I don't know if I'm that private a person," Russell said with a smile. "If he's 6-9 and black, how private can he be? I'll be hard to miss."

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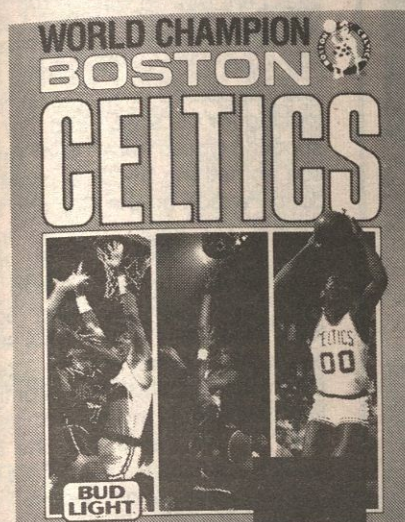
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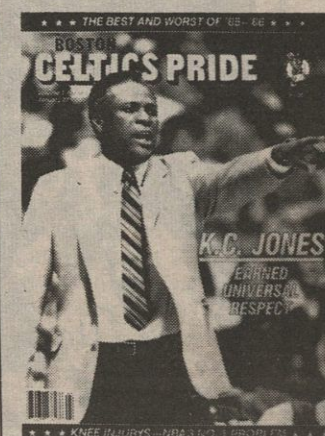
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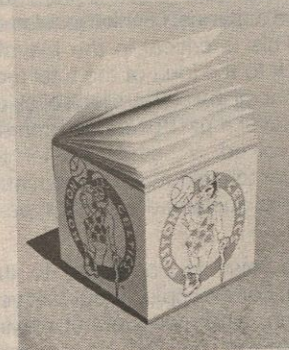
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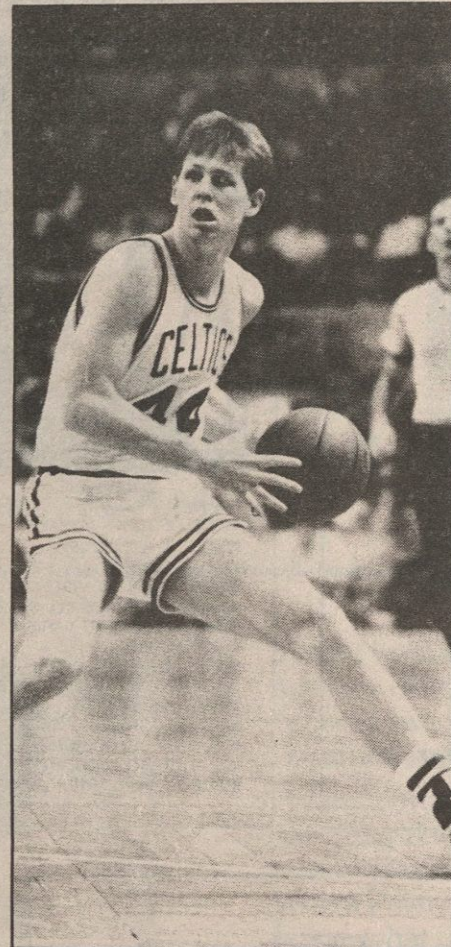


M.L. Carr

Teams, Roles, and Obstacles

After the Celtics defeated the Bulls in the first playoff series, I thought the team had both stronger and less positive areas. Regarding the latter, my thinking was that we needed to escalate the level of our play for the entire forty-eight minutes. This effort is related to this phase of the playoff season and I will discuss this further in a moment. A very sound feature of the team right now is

when they are playing effectively, they are playing championship caliber basketball. In the final eight minutes of the game Sunday, the team moved the ball very well, they took what the defense gave them and capitalized, they played strong defense, and they won out over any adjustment the Bulls made against them. A perfect illustration was the long pass Larry Bird threw to Kevin McHale for a score immediately after the Bulls had scored in



Danny Ainge: Total Team Concept.

their halfcourt offense. A team needs a total team concept to win in the playoffs. Is the fast break there? If it's not, then go to your pattern offense and execute it soundly. Defensive with total attentiveness—containing men but unafraid to force turnovers when that opportunity is there. It is early in the playoffs, but this type of unity can be maintained with a team like the Celtics. On this club, it's amazing what you can do when no one cares who receives credit. Whether it's Larry creating a play, or DJ. Or if it's Kevin McHale inside, a Robert Parish jam, or a Danny Ainge jump shot.

In this context, it's logical to discuss the bench. Much has been written, and if the bench production has been apparently spotty then questioning it is human nature. But I think the critical characteristic of the bench is if the guys there accept their roles. From a distance, I think the roles are accepted. This is critical in the playoffs. Getting back to the idea of the total team concept; if one of the starters isn't clicking, the bench player must be ready to come in and get involved. Whether it's for ten seconds or for ten minutes. The continuity of the team is sustained by this type of contribution.

Accepting roles is correlated to that idea of team. For example, in our last year with Bill Fitch, when we weren't playing well, the players on the bench were uneasy. Not with each other, but with their roles, and with the direction the team was going. The following year, with virtually the

same personnel, we sacrificed willingly. That was the 1983-84 season, the first championship we won here in Boston under K.C. Jones. I'd hate to think that there was any player on the bench on this (1986-87 Celtics) team who did not want to be playing. But if the guys on the bench aren't getting a lot of time, there are still other ways to stay involved.

Looking for angles, for example. There are little things you can pass on from watching the game attentively on the bench. I recall encouraging Larry to shoot the ball in series against Philadelphia a few years ago. He had missed a few shots and it appeared to me that he had stopped looking for his shot. I told him "Hey, your shooting got us here." Sam Vincent could see something about Michael Jordan or John Paxson (in the Chicago series) that maybe DJ might not be immediately aware of. (Dennis might have been working on pointers he had picked up from film or from scouting reports). Perhaps Michael is going to his left more, for example. Conner Henry could watch Danny's shooting. And communication like this should be viewed as constructive... I won't even use the term "constructive criticism." Rather it's helping us have a better chance to win. I viewed my tip to Larry in that Philly series as positive support. I didn't want him to back off.

This includes practice. We'd tell each other at times to be more serious (although you're not totally intense all the time) rather than goof off. It's inner coaching; coaches at this time of the year are consumed with game plans and picking up their own preoccupations in the game. Everyone can contribute at this time of year.

The most serious obstacle to winning the championship right now for us is overcoming the tendency to look past opponents in the early rounds of the playoffs. Each game and each series will be extremely challenging. The difference between teams going on in the playoffs and teams that don't are that teams who win have well-thought-out game plans that have the confidence of everybody on the team. I think we have, in our best years, made teams adjust to us, to what we're doing. That attitude's important.

Finally, the team's commitment must be there. The roles are well defined and at playoff time, they have to be perfected. For example, the rebounders have to do all the things a great rebounder has to do to get the job done. For the shooter: total concentration (an attitude), "That shot is down!", when shooting it. And making the right decisions out on the floor. If three men are out on the break, for example, say Larry on one wing and Fred Roberts on the other, probably get the ball to Larry and have Fred go in for the rebound (unless Fred has an open path).

It's never too simple. If Larry is covered around the 3-point area, and Danny is all alone for a jumper, Danny's probably your man for the pass. In a similar situation last week, John Paxson of the Bulls made a pass to Michael Jordan when Michael had a player draped all over him in the 3-point area. Sedale Threatt, who's a good shooter, was ignored. You do want the ball in your best player's hands, but not necessarily under the wrong conditions. And, what happens on the next possession? Will Threatt lose his confidence?

For the team to keep winning in the early rounds, you can't look long term. Every game, every team is an obstacle.

By the Numbers

Boston clinched the Eastern Conference title by defeating the Atlanta Hawks, 118-107 at the Boston Garden on the final day of the regular season. No surprise there; Boston finished the year 37-1 at the Garden and this further proved the Celtics' invincibility at home. Only Portland in 1985 and the Los Angeles Lakers in 1986 have defeated the Celtics in Boston during the past two seasons. One would have to go back to Portland's 1977-78 home winning streak at their Portland Coliseum and UCLA's Pauley Pavilion collegiate streak to find comparable dominance. Portland won 45 straight games with Bill Walton as Center and won 88 of 90 under the combined leadership of John Wooden, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar from 1967-74.

Danny Ainge. When one thought he might be tiring, Ainge struck in the critical game at home against Atlanta. Twenty-

four points on 9-14 FGs including 2-2 3-PT FGs and 4 assists. Ainge scored 20 in the playoff opener at home against the Bulls with 8 assists and 4 rebounds. Eight points, 7 assists, 3 steals and a block April 12 against New York.

Larry Bird. Bird spearheaded the team's final surge to the Eastern Conference crown. Career high 22 field goals in 47 point effort against Knicks. Also had 7 rebounds, 8 assists and 4 steals in that game. On jinxed home floor in Indianapolis, Bird again struck: 31 points and 12 rebounds and followed this up with 38-point 8-rebound game against Bulls. In clincher against Atlanta, his team game was never sharper—he utilized fancy passing within the team's offense, inspiring the crowd and again illustrating the team's greatness (They are able to sense when the pass is coming and catch it). Thirty-two points, 14 assists in that game; he opened playoff season with

season-low 7 FGA, but still scored 17 with 13 assists and 9 rebounds. Bulls were running double-teams at Bird with abandon, not wanting Bird to set up against them.

Darren Daye. Daye shot .554 from the floor after the All-Star Game. His contribution against the Knicks to open the crucial last week of the season was monumental; started in place of resting McHale and scored 14 points with 7 assists and 4 steals (2 were in the final minutes when game was on the line). Four of six in following start for McHale in Indiana. This was followed in turn by limited minutes at home against Chicago, Atlanta, and in the playoff opener against Bulls.

Conner Henry. Henry's only stint in the past ten days was a two minute stint against the Pacers when the game was in the Celtic win column. Two assists in two minutes. Henry's high game this season was 12 against Philadelphia, March 29. He, Sam Vincent, Greg Kite, Fred Roberts, Carlisle, and Darren Daye were playing several halfcourt games during the playoffs to attempt to retain conditioning.

Dennis Johnson. DJ missed three games after starting the first 70 and the time off seemed to enliven him. He played injured since hurting his foot in the February 27th game at Atlanta; these injuries after a stressful period at the beginning of the season caused by family problems. He exploded out of the gate against the Knicks, keying an 8-zip spurt to begin the game and finished with 10 assists. Eight points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists in Indiana; later a Big game against the Hawks: 21 points, 9 assists, 5 steals and two won jump balls over Hawks' Rollins and Dominique Wilkens. Sixteen points, 6 assists and steal in Game 1 of Bulls series.

Greg Kite. Minutes have receded since the return of Bill Walton. Two rebounds in nine minutes against Knicks and zeros across the line in his boxscore in three minutes against Pacers. Ironically, Greg's best game of the season came on April 10 vs. New Jersey. Started for injured Robert Parish and played 34 minutes, had 9 points, 9 rebounds, 2 steals and 2 blocked shots.

Kevin McHale. McHale sat out the Knicks and Pacers games before returning to action at home against Chicago (not the playoff game). As if he hadn't missed a moment, played 42 minutes, 22 points, 14 rebounds, and a block. Continued against Atlanta with 18 points and 14 rebounds then tallied 21 points with 6

rebounds in playoff opener against Chicago. McHale scored over 2,000 points this season, achieving this on the final day of the campaign and he led the NBA in field goal shooting percentage with a .604 mark (790-1307). Last season McHale shot .574 (561-978). McHale played in 77 games this season compared to 68 in 1985-86.

Robert Parish. Parish's best rebounding season since 1983-84 when his defensive center play was critical to the team winning the first title in the Jones era. That season, he had 857 rebounds and this season he had 851 total, averaging 10.7 rpg in 1983-84 and 10.6 rpg in '86-87. In 1983-84 Parish averaged 19.0 ppg and attempted 1140 shots; this season, he averaged 17.5 ppg 1057 FGA. Last season Parish averaged 16.1 ppg with 9.5 rpg and a full season of Walton's backup. Parish was another key in the Celtics' final week revival with back-to-back 17 rebound games against New York and Indiana. Fourteen points and 14 rebounds against Chicago and 17 points 11 rebounds vs. Hawks. Opened playoffs powerfully: 19 points, 11 rebounds and game-winning jumper in 108-104 win over the Bulls.

Fred Roberts. Roberts' playing time rollercoaster continued as he played one of his best games as a Celtic against the Pacers: 20 points on 8-11 from the floor with 3 rebounds and an assist. This, after 4 points in 17 minutes against New York.

Jerry Sichting. Playing some of his best basketball of the season. In the past week, averaged 19 minutes, 6.4 ppg, with 2 assists per contest. Shot 5-6 when Green Team blew out the Knicks in the 2nd period of the April 12th game; against the Hawks a week later, played 12 minutes and scored 4 points with capable defense against Hawks' Webb. Shot 4-7 FGs in 13 minutes in playoff opener.

Bill Walton. The Redhead returned, practicing well before the team departed for Indianapolis and then playing brilliantly in 15 minute stint against the Pacers. In 2nd and 4th quarters, Walton buoyed the defense, 4 points, 6 rebounds, and 3 assists. He also blocked a shot. Strong start doesn't masquerade he missed 75 regular season games this year though. Two points in Chicago and Atlanta regular season finales; in the latter, he shot 15 FGs on 0-4 FTs. Appeared to be feeling better in playoff opener: 7 points on 3-5 FGs with 2 offensive rebounds. Bird thinks Walton is playing well.

Solution to Celtics Puzzle



Top Celtics Performances April 12-April 23

POINTS	
Larry Bird	47 vs. New York, April 12
Larry Bird	38 vs. Chicago, April 17
Larry Bird	32 vs. Atlanta, April 19
Larry Bird	31 at Indiana, April 15

REBOUNDS	
Robert Parish	17 vs. New York, April 12
Robert Parish	17 at Indiana, April 15
Kevin McHale	14 vs. Chicago, April 17
Robert Parish	14 vs. Chicago, April 17
Larry Bird	12 at Indiana, April 15
Robert Parish	11 vs. Atlanta, April 19
Robert Parish	11 vs. Chicago, April 23 PLAYOFF

ASSISTS	
Larry Bird	14 vs. Atlanta, April 19
Larry Bird	13 vs. Chicago, April 23 PLAYOFF
Dennis Johnson	10 vs. New York, April 12
Dennis Johnson	9 vs. Chicago, April 17
Dennis Johnson	9 vs. Atlanta, April 19

BLOCKED SHOTS	
Robert Parish	4 at Indiana, April 15
Fred Roberts	2 at Indiana, April 15
Robert Parish	2 vs. Chicago, April 17
Robert Parish	2 vs. Atlanta, April 19
Robert Parish	2 vs. Chicago, April 23 PLAYOFF

STEALS	
Dennis Johnson	5 vs. Atlanta, April 19
Kevin McHale	4 vs. New York, April 12
Larry Bird	4 vs. New York, April 12
Jerry Sichting	3 vs. New York, April 12
Danny Ainge	3 vs. New York, April 12

Boston Celtics Statistics

THROUGH APRIL 26 (2-0)

PLAYER	G	GS	MIN	-FIELD GOALS-			3-PT FG			-FREE THROWS-			--REBOUNDS--			AST	PF	DQ	STL	TO	BLK	PTS	AVG	H1
				FG	FGA	PCT	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT										
BIRD	2	2	90	13	24	542	2	2	18	20	900	5	11	16	21	6	0	2	3	0	46	23	0	29
MCMALE	2	2	88	18	35	514	0	0	5	7	714	5	11	16	6	0	0	6	2	41	20	5	21	
AINGE	2	2	81	17	29	586	2	5	2	2	1000	1	4	5	13	5	0	3	3	0	38	19	0	20
JOHNSON	2	2	86	12	30	400	0	2	10	11	909	1	3	4	13	8	0	4	2	0	34	17	0	18
PARISH	2	2	72	15	26	577	0	0	3	4	750	5	16	21	2	7	0	2	3	7	33	16	5	19
WALTON	2	0	26	5	9	556	0	0	1	2	500	4	7	11	1	6	0	0	0	1	11	5	5	7
SICHTING	2	0	25	5	11	455	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
DAYE	2	0	10	0	3	000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROBERTS	1	0	2	0	0	---	0	0	0	0	0	---	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CELTICS	2		480	85	167	509	4	9	39	46	848	21	54	75	57	42	0	11	18	11	213	106	5	108
OPPONENTS	2		480	72	155	465	5	10	51	56	911	20	48	68	40	47	0	6	25	7	200	100	0	104

Game by Game

Boston 118 Atlanta 107, April 19 at Boston Garden

The Celtics rallied from a 12-5 opening Atlanta Hawks' salvo ripped off 14 straight points in the ensuing 4:46 and controlled most of the action thereafter to defeat the Hawks before the 38th straight sellout at the Garden and a national (CBS) television audience. With the win Boston captured the home floor for the entire playoffs in the Eastern Conference and against every opponent except Los Angeles.

It was in the eyes: at 2:41 on the opening period, Mike McGee and Kevin McHale exchanged words after McGee fouled the Celtic forward. McGee then allegedly spit at McHale, and after more oratory, punched at the Celtic. He was ejected for firing the blow and as McHale walked back up floor to gain his composure, he shot a glance at teammate Larry Bird, and winked.

Boston 108 Chicago 104, April 23 at Boston Garden

Larry Bird, Dennis Johnson, and Robert Parish scored the final critical points for the Celtics as the defending NBA champions opened defense of their title with a 108-104 win over the Bulls. The Celtics gained a 1-0 lead in the first series of the playoffs, a best of five affair.

Boston raced to early leads of 6-0 and 17-4 behind Danny Ainge's explosive 14-point first quarter. Michael Jordan, doubled at every opportunity by the Celtics (Dennis Johnson had the assignment of guarding the NBA's leading scorer; often, Kevin McHale as the man doubling Jordan), rallied the Bulls late in the first quarter as the visitors cut the margin to 34-24 at the break. In the

second quarter the Celtics resumed their crisp ball movement and their selective running game. A combination of Larry Bird-Bill Walton-Robert Parish-Danny Ainge-and Jerry Sichting ran off to a 46-31 lead; later, the frontcourt of Bird-Parish-McHale expanded the lead further, peaking at 59-39 on a Bird 3-point field goal. Ironically, that second Bird bonus field goal represented the apex of his scoring. Like the Celtics, Chicago ran its own doubling defense at the Celtics superstar and Bird was limited to seven field goal attempts for the entire game.

"I was content to swing the ball around," Bird said later, "because we were ahead by 19 points. But I should've shot more when they got back into the game and we weren't as effective swinging the ball."

Boston 105 Chicago 96, April 27 Boston Garden

Receiving scoring from the entire starting five to highlight its stunning teamwork down the stretch, the Celtics outlasted the upset-minded Chicago Bulls at the Garden to establish a 2-0 advantage in the best-of-five series. Larry Bird paced the Celtics scoring attack with 29 points, an attack which featured the whole starting unit in double figures. Kevin McHale scored 20 points and McHale and Robert Parish each had 10 rebounds.

Michael Jordan led all scorers with 42 points.

Although the game margins throughout this second game were considerably closer than the Game 1 scores (when the Celtics led by as much as 20 points in the first half), the game still appeared to be controlled by Boston. The Celtics turned the ball over only five times in the entire

ballgame and at the half were leading 56-48. Led by Bird, the Celts executed their halfcourt offense brilliantly to open the second half to push the lead out to 66-55 and later it was still 80-70 when Dennis Johnson nailed a jumper on a pass from Bird. The Celtics had been further buoyed at this juncture of the game by the play of Bill Walton; the Redhead played seventeen minutes and had 9 rebounds to boost the Celtics after Robert Parish was immersed in foul trouble in the second and third quarters.

Mysteriously, however, and owing to the brilliance of Jordan, Chicago still fought back into the game after Johnson's jumper late in the third. Jordan scored two free throws, assisted on a ten-foot jumper by Elston Turner and climaxed the surge in the third by scoring a 40-foot jumper at the buzzer. That three-pointer reduced the Celts' lead to 82-77. And early in the fourth quarter Jordan scored another three-pointer from the left sideline. This gave the Bulls their first lead (84-82) since the first basket of the game by the Chicago superstar guard.

Boston would rally however, playing in a style highly reminiscent of the collaborative starting five efforts which characterized the western swing in February. Danny Ainge scored two jumpers, the latter one on an assist from Johnson. Johnson scored a running hook shot and Ainge broke through a pack of players to steal a loose ball and score a running left-hander. A gorgeous backhand bounce pass by McHale set Parish up for a slam dunk, and when Bird scored a 12-foot fade at :59, the C's had completed an 18-6 run to ice the verdict. Ainge finished with eight in the quarter and sixteen for the game while

Charles Oakley starred for the Bulls with 25 points, 15 rebounds.

Celtics 105 Bulls 94, April 29 at Chicago,

The Celtics completed their three game sweep of the Bulls without the services of Kevin McHale who was forced to sit out the game with the injured ankle. The Bulls soon found out that unlike themselves, one man does not make a team in the case of champions. Larry Bird scored 32 for the game, while Dennis Johnson continued his clutch performance with 24 important points and 10 assists.

The Bulls kept the game close in this one, actually leading throughout three quarters of action. The score was tied at the end of one, with Chicago going up by nine outscoring the Celts 10-2 at the beginning of the third quarter. Michael Jordan and Charles Oakley were the only strong factors for the Bulls, with Jordan scoring 30 and Oakley contributing 14 points and 19 rebounds.

The Celts didn't take the final lead of the game until 5:49 in the 4th. It was the Celtics first lead of the second half and one that they never relinquished. The performance by the Celts in the 4th quarter may help to silence those who think that fatigue is a Celtics weakness. Down the stretch, Boston outscored Chicago by a 37 to 21 margin.

Other sources of optimism were steady performances by Fred Roberts and the continually improved play of Bill Walton who filled in after Robert Parish fouled out.

Celts Sweep Chicago in 1st Round

Celtics, 108 — Indiana, 85 at Indianapolis

BOSTON												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
Bird	41	13-24	5-5	1-12	3	1	31					
Daye	24	4-6	0-0	2-5	1	4	8					
Parish	33	10-18	1-2	6-17	2	3	21					
Ainge	37	4-12	0-0	0-2	1	1	8					
Johnson	29	2-5	2-2	0-4	3	1	6					
Roberts	28	8-11	4-5	2-3	1	4	20					
Sichting	25	1-4	0-0	0-0	3	4	2					
Walton	15	2-3	0-0	2-6	3	3	4					
Kille	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					
Vincent	3	2-2	4-4	0-0	1	0	8					
Henry	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	1	0					

TOTALS 240 46-85 16-18 13-49 25 22 108
Percentages: FG—54.1, FT—88.9; 3-PT FGs—.000 (Ainge 0-1). Rebounds: 2 Team. Blocked shots: 3 (Walton 2, Bird). Turnovers: 16 (Bird 5, Parish 3, Daye 2, Sichting 2, Ainge, Johnson, Roberts, Walton). Steals: 8 (Bird 2, Ainge 2, Daye, Parish, Johnson, Roberts).

INDIANA												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
Person	34	8-19	0-0	2-7	3	2	16					
Williams	31	6-10	2-3	1-7	4	3	14					
Stipanovich	34	4-12	5-8	3-9	0	3	13					
Fleming	26	1-4	0-0	1-2	7	1	2					
Long	35	9-16	4-4	1-4	1	23	23					
Tisdale	20	1-5	0-0	0-3	0	4	2					
Richardson	13	1-5	0-0	0-2	0	1	2					
Anderson	18	1-1	3-4	1-2	0	0	5					
Macy	19	0-3	0-0	1-2	1	1	0					
Gray	5	1-3	4-4	1-1	0	0	6					
Russell	3	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	2					
Dreiling	2	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	0	0					

TOTALS 240 33-81 18-23 12-37 20 18 85
Percentages: FG—40.7, FT—78.3; 3-PT FGs—.500 (Long 1-1, Person 0-1). Rebounds: 6 Team; Blocked shots: 0. Turnovers: 15 (Stipanovich 3, Tisdale 3, Person 2, Fleming 2, Long 2, Williams, Anderson, Dreiling). Steals: 9 (Long 3, Stipanovich 2, Person, Fleming, Anderson, Macy).

Boston 29 29 23 27 — 108
Indiana 32 16 17 20 — 85
Technical fouls: None. A: 16,912. T: 1:53.
Officials: Nies, Middleton.

Celtics, 118 — Atlanta, 107 at Boston Garden

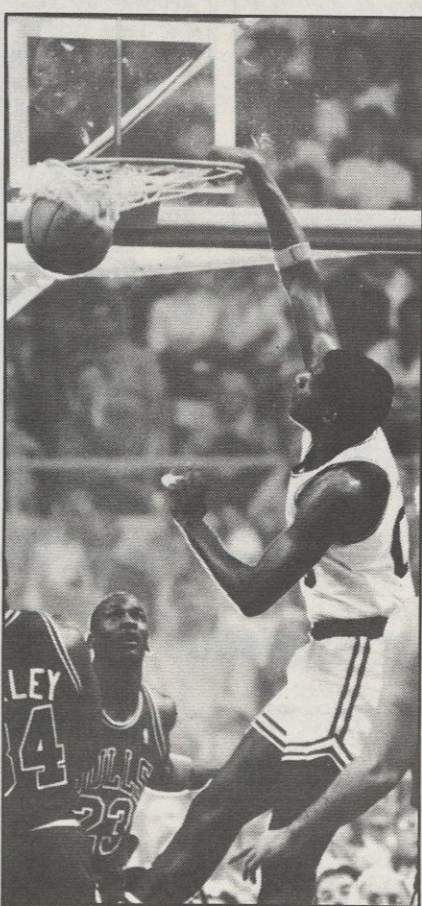
BOSTON												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
McHale	44	5-13	8-12	6-14	0	4	15					
Bird	47	11-18	9-8	2-5	14	5	32					
Parish	38	6-13	5-10	2-11	2	5	17					
Johnson	44	9-19	3-3	2-3	9	2	21					
Ainge	37	9-14	4-4	0-2	4	0	24					
Sichting	12	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	4					
Walton	13	1-5	0-4	4-5	0	1	2					
Daye	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	0					

TOTALS 240 43-85 28-41 16-40 30 20 118
Percentages: FG—50.6, FT—68.3; 3-PT FGs—.667 (Ainge 2-2, Bird 2-4). Rebounds: 14 Team. Blocked shots: 4 (Parish 2, Johnson, Bird). Turnovers: 9 (Bird 3, Parish 3, Johnson, Ainge, Walton). Steals: 7 (Johnson 5, Bird 2).

ATLANTA												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
Wilkins	42	11-23	6-6	2-2	4	1	28					
Willis	32	10-13	1-3	1-5	0	5	21					
Rollins	10	2-3	0-0	1-3	1	4	4					
Wittman	20	2-7	0-0	1-2	1	3	4					
Rivers	18	1-4	2-2	1-3	7	3	4					
Koncak	30	2-5	0-0	2-11	1	5	4					
Webb	30	6-8	4-4	1-3	8	2	16					
McGee	2	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	1	0					
Carr	21	4-8	1-1	2-3	2	6	9					
Livingston	17	2-4	3-5	1-3	0	3	7					
Battle	18	4-7	2-2	0-2	1	1	10					

TOTALS 240 44-82 19-23 12-38 26 34 107
Percentages: FG—53.7, FT—82.6; 3-PT FGs—.000 (Wittman 0-1). Rebounds: 5 Team; Blocked shots: 8 (Carr 4, Wilkins, Willis, Koncak, Livingston). Turnovers: 15 (Wilkins 5, Willis 3, Koncak 3, Rivers 2, Wittman, Carr). Steals: 6 (Wilkins 2, Battle 2, Wittman, Webb).

Atlanta 24 25 28 30 — 107
Boston 32 26 35 25 — 118
Technical fouls: None. A: 14,890. T: 2:21.
Officials: Garretson, Fryer.



Robert Parish: Best Year Ever.

Celtics, 108 — Chicago, 104 at Boston Garden

BOSTON												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
McHale	44	10-21	1-1	2-6	2	2	21					
Bird	46	4-7	7-7	3-9	13	2	17					
Parish	41	9-14	1-2	1-11	1	3	19					
Johnson	43	5-13	6-6	1-3	6	4	16					
Ainge	40	8-12	2-2	0-4	8	3	16					
Walton	9	3-5	1-1	2-2	0	3	7					
Sichting	13	4-7	0-0	0-1	1	2	8					
Daye	4	0-2	0-0	0-1	0	1	0					

TOTALS 240 43-81 18-19 9-37 31 20 108
Percentages: FG—53.1, FT—94.7; 3-PT FGs—.667 (Bird 2-2, Ainge 2-2, Johnson 0-2). Rebounds: 6 Team. Blocked shots: 5 (Parish 2, Daye, McHale, Walton). Turnovers: 12 (McHale 4, Parish 3, Ainge 3, Bird, Johnson). Steals: 3 (Bird 2, Johnson).

CHICAGO												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
Banks	37	8-13	3-3	3-5	2	4	19					
Oakley	41	7-17	7-8	3-12	2	4	21					
Corzine	33	1-1	0-0	1-2	2	2	2					
Paxson	27	4-7	1-1	0-1	6	2	10					
Jordan	44	12-25	11-11	0-6	7	4	35					
Threath	27	5-8	2-2	0-2	6	4	12					
Sellers	23	1-6	3-3	1-2	1	1	5					
Walters	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0					
Turner	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					

TOTALS 240 38-78 27-28 8-30 26 22 104
Percentages: FG—47.0, FT—96.4; 3-PT FGs—.333 (Paxson 1-1, Oakley 0-1, Jordan 0-1). Rebounds: 7 Team; Blocked shots: 3 (Jordan 2, Sellers). Turnovers: 9 (Oakley 3, Jordan 2, Banks 2, Threath, Sellers). Steals: 5 (Jordan 4, Oakley).

Chicago 24 23 26 31 — 104
Boston 34 32 20 22 — 108
Technical fouls: Chicago 1 (illegal defense, 3:45 2nd). A: 14,890. T: 2:05. Officials: Madden, Nunez, Lauerman.

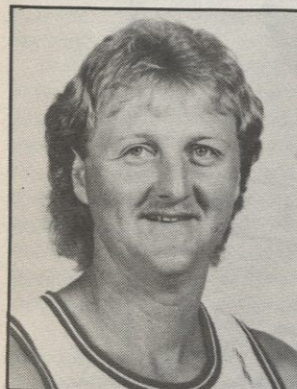
Celtics, 105 — Chicago, 96 at Boston Garden

BOSTON												
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts					
McHale	44	8-14	4-6	3-10	4	4	20					
Bird	44	9-17	11-13	2-7	8	4	29					
Parish	31	6-12	2-2	4-10	1	4	14					
Johnson	43	7-17	4-5	0-1	7	4	18					
Ainge	41	9-17	0-0	1-1	5	2	18					
Walton	17	2-4	0-1	2-9	1	3	4					
Sichting	12	1-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	2					
Daye	6	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0					
Roberts	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0					

TOTALS 240 42-86 21-27 12-38 26 22 105
Percentages: FG—48.8, FT—77.6; 3-PT FGs—.000 (Ainge 0-3). Rebounds: 9 Team. Blocked shots: 6 (Parish 5, McHale). Turnovers: 5 (McHale 2, Bird 2, Johnson). Steals: 8 (Ainge 3, Johnson 3, Parish 2).

Johnson 3, Parish 2).									
CHICAGO									
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	F	Pts		
		M-A	M-A	O-T					
Banks	6	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	3	0		
Oakley	45	7-20	10-12	6-15	0	4	25		
Corzine	46	5-10	2-2	3-10	2	2	12		
Paxson	29	3-7	0-0	0-2	2	3	7		
Jordan	45	14-29	12-14	1-4	4	3	42		
Sellers	32	3-6	0-0	0-3	1	5	6		
Threath	26	1-4	0-0	2-2	4	4	2		
Turner	11	1-1	0-0	0-1	2	1	2		
TOTALS	240	24-77	24-28	12-26	14	25	96		

Roundball Spoken Here

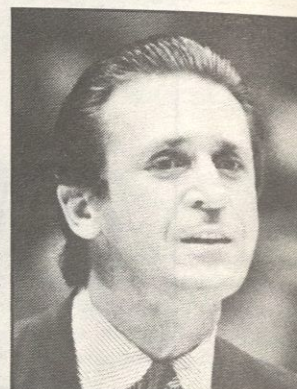


Larry Bird

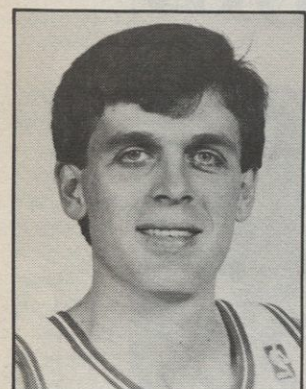
Larry Bird on his motivation for a big game: "Sometimes I can really tell if I'm pumped up, and sometimes I can't. I really don't know. I knew the final game of the regular season against the Hawks was a big game. With me, the only thing I want to do is hit my first two or three shots. If I do that... I'm going to have a good game.

"I don't have to worry that I'm going to have a *bad* game. I may have a bad shooting game, but I'm not going to have a *bad* game."

Pat Riley, Coach of the Lakers, on the thinking behind the selection of Coach of the Year in the NBA: "Mike Ditka and Bill Parcells were named Coach of the Year in the National Football League after winning titles. But in basketball, the guy with the best record is not even considered. K.C. (Jones) won 67 games last year and didn't get it. And Mike Fratello, he's done a better job this year (Fratello won the award last year). His team's won even more games in a much tougher division, but he can't be considered because he's already won fifty games."



Pat Riley



Kevin McHale

Kevin McHale on the advantage of playing games on the C's home floor in the post season: "It really doesn't make that much difference to me. See, the way I look at it, if we're playing well, we're going to beat anybody. And if you want to be the best you've got to beat them all eventually anyway whatever the order—and we're definitely in this thing to go all the way.

"What the hell? If you're going to get beat you might as well get beat in the first round. You know, for an extra two months' vacation and so I can get my golf game back. I hear guys on other teams say 'Hey, we got to the second round of the playoffs,' but I don't buy that. The only thing that counts is winning it all."

Mike Fratello, Coach of the Hawks on the advantage the Celtics have playing in the Boston Garden: "Only one team has beaten the Celtics in the Garden in each of the last two years, so I don't know how you can lessen the significance of that in any way. They play well at home, they've got a great following and there's a tradition here. Looking at the record, you'd have to say it's the toughest place to get a win."



Mike Fratello

An Artistic Perspective

Donna Johnson's Creative Energies Express a Better World

Donna Johnson remembers growing up, first in Chicago and then later in Los Angeles. "My father was in the service," she says, "so the life of professional basketball, all the moving, has never bothered me."

Donna Johnson is married to Dennis Johnson, the Celtics brilliant point guard. DJ was traded to the Celtics in 1983. It represented the second transaction for the player, and his wife, but the first for their four-year old son, Dwayne. They're a striking couple: Dennis is tall, with a freckled face and quick smile on a handsome bronze face. Donna Johnson is stately; she has dark hair, striking beauty, a kindly spirit and a composed manner. The couple met at Pepperdine where she majored in commercial art (Dennis majored in the social sciences); she has kept current in the field, designing advertising for local video stores and a vacuum cleaning business. But lately, in the past few years, she has devoted much of her creative energies strictly to art. She has developed a comic strip, and drawn several other cartoons as well as oils of scenery. She's found art to be an ideal outlet for life in professional basketball.

"I think what painting has done for me is provide a perfect outlet for my moods," she commented last week after the Celtics had defeated the Bulls in the second game of the playoffs. "Painting is also, I've



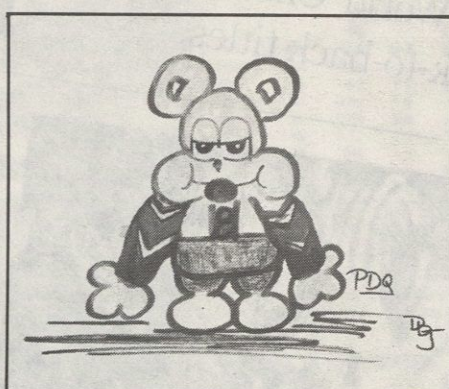
Donna Johnson: Artist in Residence

found, something I can pick up and then leave. I might go for a period of months where I'll continually paint."

"Then it's hard for me to even talk to her," points out DJ, who is totally supportive of Donna's work.

Much of Donna's work in the past year has been devoted to a comic strip entitled "Pinky Lee." The main character is an animal, in an assistant's role in the hierarchy of the society, "modeled after a Snoopy or Garfield," she declares.

The strip takes place in Blushing Valley which like any society features good and evil forces. The sinister characters live in the lower part of the valley, predictably, while Pinky and the admired part of the



"P.D.Q." is one of Donna's favorites.

imaginary culture live in the upper half of the land.

"My concept is to provide some positive influences for kids," she said. "The comics you see now all seem to have violent themes, someone always beating up on somebody. The values I hope to illustrate would include love, happiness, joy.

"I used to watch TV in the fifties and I remember shows being simple and encouraging, like 'Leave it to Beaver.' Now, all you have on television is chaos."

The oils depict realism—country scenes, mountains, sunsets. Formerly she used acrylics, but she has worked with oil paints in the last year. And there have been the aforementioned changes of

scenes in the Johnsons' professional athletic career. Dennis was a young, blossoming superstar in Seattle in the first phase of his career, a maturing veteran in Phoenix (older and wiser). In Boston, he's the consummate professional, as writer Mike Szostak of *The Providence Journal-Bulletin* so accurately put it last week. With the player's development and geographical transfers, accompanying changes developed for the family and the relationship.

"Oh, I think Dennis is much more loving now. Seattle was nice (if rainy). We were just beginning to learn about professional basketball and how it changes your life. Dennis is in the public eye, and he's treated differently because of that. We both began to realize it then.

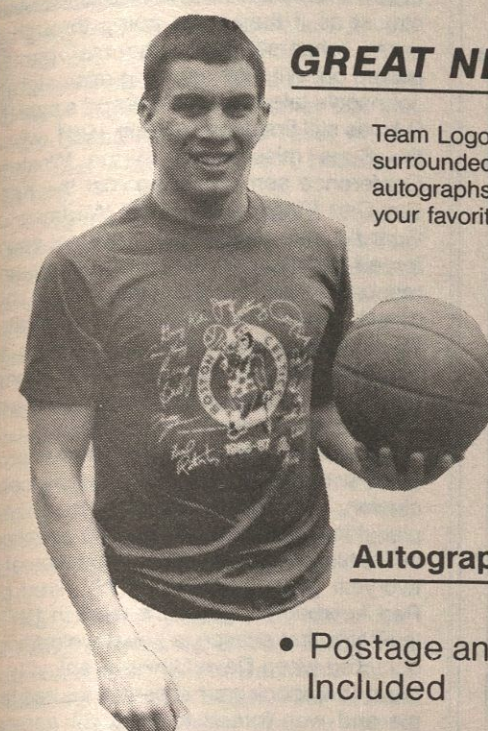
"In professional sports, you're given something and you have to learn how to handle it. From Seattle onward, we've grown up a lot.

"There's been an adjustment since coming to Boston and I think that the city is totally different than what I've experienced. As long as my family is with me, though, I'm happy."

She is currently looking into acquiring a patent for the strip, as well as a writer who will provide script. "I'd like to see there be another alternative to the 'He-Man' comic. There'd be personal satisfaction for me in seeing it published."

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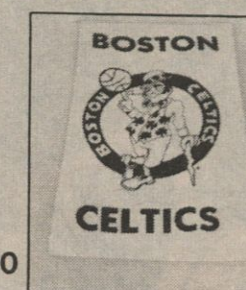
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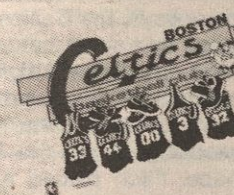
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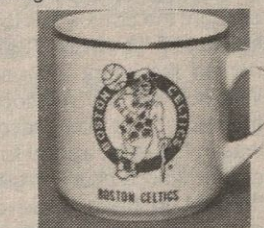
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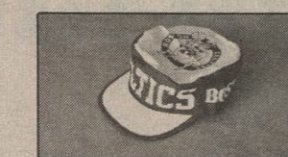
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Celtics Classics

Perhaps it is useful to talk about Dennis Johnson in terms of who he is not. Dennis Johnson isn't Bobby Wilkerson nor is he David Thompson. DJ isn't Paul Westphal. DJ isn't John MacLeod nor is he Rick Robey.

Dennis Wayne Johnson was traded to the Boston Celtics on June 27, 1983 in exchange for Rick Robey, a powerful backup center whose best seasons unfortunately were dissipated in a series of smoldering confrontations with former Celtics Coach Bill Fitch. The trade of Johnson to the Celtics involved precedent on the part of the grand Celtic organization, its development in the eighties, and the ability of the Celtic brass to see what an exceptional player Johnson is, regardless of heresy and in spite of the Phoenix Suns' inability to win a Western Conference championship with Johnson on their team.

Johnson was originally one of the best kept West Coast secrets while a collegian at Pepperdine University. He was the leader of a team which upended the Bill Cartwright University of San Francisco team in the WCAC conference final, 85-84 in 1976. Later the Wave went into the regional final against UCLA before losing at Pauley Pavilion to a Bruins team led by Richard Washington and Marques Johnson. Finally, DJ had some exposure after easily handling the more publicized Andre McCarter on the latter's home floor. Later that summer, Johnson scrimmaged continually with Lakers' retired star Jerry West in Los Angeles and the Lakers were ready to draft DJ as a hardship. But the Super-Sonics beat the Lakers to the choice and Johnson ended up in Seattle.

For the first season plus seventeen games, Johnson was an unhappy athlete. Promised stardom and playing time, he was often on the bench under Bill Russell, the former Celtic superstar and coach. Later in the following 1977-78 season, Bob Hopkins coached the Sonics with Lenny Wilkens as General Manager; the Sonics swooned under Hopkins and Johnson, still receiving little playing time, was seriously considering asking for a trade.

Then 23 years old, Johnson, speaking off the record to writer Blaine Johnson angrily said, "This isn't for me, man. I gotta get out of here. My career is going down the drain. They don't have use for me and... I can play. I'm gonna demand to be traded."

Bill Russell had been a friend, coach, and counseling force for the young player Johnson remembered last season. But, Hopkins was the coach that year, and all sense of stability had been lost. Fortunately for Johnson's career probably, Wilkens stepped down into the coaching position. Johnson at that juncture became the Sonics starting guard and he was on track to NBA stardom. Bobby Wilkerson had been the Sonics starting guard, the first of a series of players Johnson was to compete against who were more widely known. DJ started when Wilkens took the team over with a 5-17 mark in Kansas City and has started ever since.

A two-year passage to the championship followed for the Sonics; Johnson played the off-guard with Gus Williams at

Acquiring Dennis Johnson



Dennis Johnson: Exceptional Athlete.

the point, John Johnson, Lonnie Shelton and Paul Silas at forward, with Jack Sikma in the middle. Fred Brown backed up Williams and DJ. Interestingly, in year one of the Sonics' quest, one of Johnson's key matchups was David Thompson, then the superstar guard of the Denver Nuggets. Thompson had just then emerged from the scoring championship and an \$800,000 per season contract. He was valuable then but the size of the pact at that time was criticized uniformly throughout the industry. Thompson was never the same player after that, and Johnson initiated the Sonics' own team credibility by shutting Thompson down as the Sonics won the series in six games. DJ's own career suffered a momentary setback when he shot a disheartening 0-12 in the 7th game of The Finals against Washington. But one year later, he was the Playoff MVP when the Sonics won the championship.

A serious situation of the "Repeat Jinx" overtook the Sonics and Johnson how-

ever. One season later, the players and the coach had incessant difficulties adjusting to the roles which had won them the title the previous season. Part of the problem was Johnson-related; he was the championship MVP and he remained at the top of the game. But the last minute shots didn't always go to him, and when they did, they didn't always fall. There was grouching and finally the comment which brought the Sonics' era to a close. Wilkens called DJ "a cancer," although he later denied the intent. Johnson has forgiven Wilkens, but the relationship was never the same. And one season later Johnson was in Phoenix, traded for Paul Westphal, at one time a premier guard in the NBA; thought to be a trade of superstars, it proved to be something less than that for different reasons. Westphal suffered successive stress fractures in his foot and was never the same player.

Meanwhile, Dennis Johnson was struggling to fit his game within John MacLeod's disciplined, college-like system.

Players were allocated specific minutes, almost as if they were going through a dress rehearsal while the real games played on. With the seeming mismatch of Johnson's talents and MacLeod's system DJ was still first team NBA in 1981, when the Suns missed out in the Western Conference semi-finals against the Kansas City Kings (with Scott Wedman at Guard). Later, another move of MacLeod's forced Johnson to take on point guard responsibilities for the first time in his career when the coach moved Walter Davis to off-guard. But the system in Phoenix wore on Johnson and at times, the player became exasperated. In retrospect, a trade proved inevitable.

Simultaneously in Boston, another program was drawing to an unhappy conclusion. The Celtics had won the championship in 1981; like Johnson's situation in Seattle, it had been the culmination of a two-year push under Bill Fitch, hired by Red Auerbach to guide the team in 1979. In Fitch's first season, a key development occurred when Dave Cowens, enjoying a great comeback year at center, injured his toe and was forced to miss 27 games. Cowens' replacement was Rick Robey; Robey had once been the 3rd draft choice in the whole draft, a mobile power forward at 6-10. He averaged 16.7 ppg with 9.1 rebounds in Cowens' absence and in some ways, the Celtics were better with Robey as center that year. But that part season marked the high point of Robey's Celtic career. Red Auerbach thinks Robey didn't love the game enough to enjoy practicing, to put the time in to stay in shape. Fitch placed a high priority on superior conditioning and would later place a distance between himself and his backup center. By the time Fitch headed to Houston, Robey sadly was a shell of what he once could have been.

Men in positions of power in the league have to make difficult choices. Jerry Colangelo, Phoenix GM, was committed to MacLeod and professed a need to acquire a power center to match the twin towers being built throughout the NBA. Red Auerbach, for his part, drooled at the chance to acquire Dennis Johnson, a proven money player. A bad attitude? Auerbach called Russell and was advised Johnson was an independent thinker, coachable, and had the ability to take responsibility when the game was on the line. Two championship rings later, Russell's words have been validated; Auerbach sat in his office in 1983 and told *Boston Globe* writer Dan Shaughnessy with delight, "I'm going to trade right now for Dennis Johnson!"

Memorable plays and phone calls. Johnson stealing the ball from Magic Johnson to seal Game 7 of the championship in 1984; before that, coming off the injured list and delivering the key shots to open up Game 7 in the New York series. All evolved from this root: K.C. Jones took over as coach from Fitch in 1983 and in the transition, was forced to sever his business ties with Rick Robey in a sporting goods venture in Faneuil Hall in Boston. Jones later had to call Robey to tell him he had been traded to the Suns. Jones recounts this in his book, *Rebound*. "Rick Robey loved the Celtics," Jones wrote. He said it was the toughest call he ever had to make in the business.

Thanks for the Memories

I Knew Arnold

I was with Arnold Auerbach at the Norfolk Naval Base during 1944 when the war was at its peak. It was very evident at that time that the United States Navy would never be the same after Arnold Auerbach became a part of it.

During that time, there was a Physical Instructors program headed by the late Gene Tunney. He enrolled outstanding but competent athletes in a program which earned the pseudonym, "Tunney Fish." Many of these athletes eventually ended at the Naval Base in Norfolk, Virginia, which was commanded at that time by a feisty and aggressive Admiral McClure.

Admiral McClure fought his war hard. But he also believed in playing hard. No one could abuse any of his athletes without drawing his ire. He was a superb admiral and believed in the morale of his men.

The Admiral assembled such outstanding athletes as Bobby Feller (who was transferred to the Battleship U.S.S. Alabama), Dom DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto, Benny McCoy, Charlie Wagner, Vinnie Smith, Johnny Rigney, and Jimmy Gleeson.

A little red head arrived on the scene by the name of Arnold Auerbach. He was all basketball. The basketball coach and baseball coach was Chief Bodie who knew very little about basketball which used to infuriate Auerbach. Coach Bodie had outstanding teams in the "Tunney Fish" program, which included players

like Mad Matt Zunich, Red Holzman, (yep, the same one who coached the Knicks), Jim Floyd, Tom Feerick, and others. The coaching job for Chief Bodie was therefore not difficult.

Auerbach could not stand the old-fashioned, slow pattern-type basketball which Coach Bodie believed in. He let us all know in no uncertain terms that this was not good basketball. Defense and aggressiveness is what Auerbach expounded even in those days. He became very upset with the "set-shots" and slow basketball.

We were watching a baseball game between the Naval Air Base and our Naval Base and what do you think Auerbach was talking about? Basketball, of course! He would let everyone know that defense was the key of every basketball team and couldn't understand why Coach Bodie was not more aggressive.

It was obvious even then that Auerbach was ahead of his time and his present prestige in the annals of basketball fame affirms the validity of his thinking and coaching in 1944.

I was the yeoman for Commander Schlapp in Unit X and my Commander was good friends with Commander Reinhart who probably had more influence with Auerbach than anyone. One day, the Commander called me into his office and asked me if I knew Arnold Auerbach. I told him that I did. He proceeded to tell me how much Commander Reinhart respected him and that he predicted he would rise to be one of the outstanding basketball figures of our



Red: Navy was Never the Same.

time. Time proved Commander Reinhart to be right!

We won the war with the likes of Arnold Auerbach, "Mr. Basketball!" It was a pleasure to have crossed his path and to be able to tell my friends today that I know Arnold Auerbach.

Max Kirshstein

Me and The Couz

I've been a Celtic Fan all my life. I was born in Norwich, CT, and moved to New York, where I spent most of my life, and now live in Baltic, CT.

I never lost my allegiance to the Boston Celtics while living in New York. Got ribbed pretty good but never weakened.

My main man is Bob Cousy, just as great off the court as on. I have corresponded with Bob as a Celtic, Coach of

Boston College, Coach of the Cincinnati Royals, Commissioner of the American Soccer League and currently as TV Sportscaster of the Celtics.

Having my picture taken with Bob was a thrilling moment for me but the classic item I have is an autographed scorecard of Bob's last game at the old Madison Square Garden on March 3, 1963, which I obtained after the game.

These are my memories of one of the greatest players to wear a Celtic uniform—#14. Thanks for the memories Bob!

Edward J. Weber



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K.C.'s son Kent Christopher took this portrait of his mom, Ellen and Dad recently—obviously he felt K.C.'s hair was too long.

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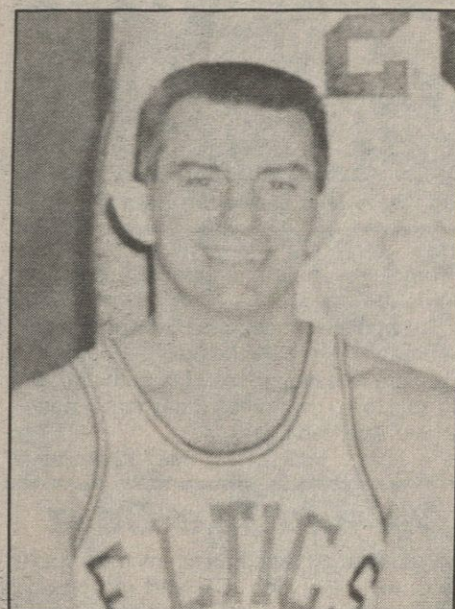
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Celtics Greats

Celtics "Whiz Kid"

Andy Phillip



Andy Phillip: A Life of Helping Others.

Although Illinois was replete with collegiate stars, only Phillip proceeded to a career in the NBA that resembled the success any of the players had in the collegiate level. Appropriately, that career began with three seasons with the Chicago Stags, where his best season of 12.0 ppg placed him sixteenth in the league in scoring in the 1948-49 season. Phillip was traded three times after his career was initiated in Chicago; he played with the Philadelphia Warriors for two years, the Fort Wayne Pistons for three seasons, before finishing up his career with the Celtics for two seasons, 1956-57 and 1957-58.

Andy Phillip and his lovely wife were in Boston last week; he retains the rugged good looks of his earlier years and likewise, the conditioned athletic physique of his basketball career.

"I had it going very well as a professional except that I tore up my knee," he recalled. "The changes you have to go through after that are both subtle and

obvious. For one, you don't get up as high on your jump shot, so you become an easier player to defend. For the other, you become a somewhat less valued commodity so you are open to situations like being traded."

Phillip represented a type of player who had a long line of importance in the successful Celtic scheme. He was a great player who had reached a stage in his career where minutes were either less important or impossible. Yet this player (Carl Braun, Wayne Embry, Willie Naulls, and Dave Bing were others) in the veteran role still proved useful in sustaining class and success for the Celtic organization.

"That (first championship) year we all had a feeling we would be able to do it. We had Bill Russell by the beginning of the month of January but people forget that we were still in first place anyway.

"What Russell brought to our team was defense and depth. He was a genius on the defensive end, never allowing any of our opponents any penetration whatsoever.

"But he also allowed players like Arnie Risen and Jim Loscutoff to play important roles off the bench. In other words, he provided depth to our team by adding another sound player to the team. We were able to win that year because we received contributions from players one through twelve."

Phillip remained close to Coach Doug Mills of Illinois throughout his professional career and even after when he retired and began working for the city of Palm Springs. "I think you remain close to people who had a direct influence on your life, and in athletics, your coach is really the man who provides that type of guidance. I saw Doug frequently—we were buddies—and I was fortunate to see him before he died (in 1985)."

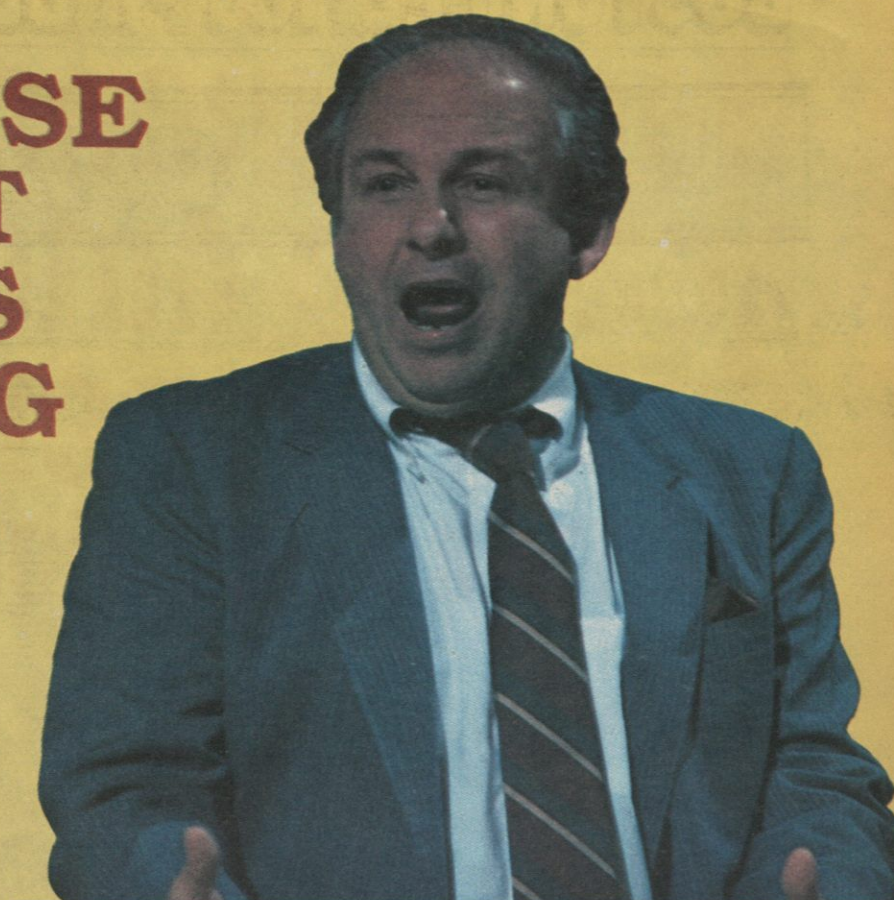
Phillip however still considers himself part of the Celtic organization as well. "I was fortunate," he said. "I played on teams which had success and character and they provided real lasting memories. I firmly believe that when the present Celtic team is able to have an idea of what we were able to accomplish, why, this helps them to want to continue that type of tradition."

After retiring from the game in 1958—"My knee wouldn't hold up any longer"—Phillip went to work for the probation department in California. "I felt from the beginning of that job that I was making a contribution in some way in helping to work out some direction for people's lives. I stayed with it since leaving basketball. We were always happy in California and we had no reason to leave the work or the area.

"I had happy years after basketball and fulfilling years in the game itself." Indeed; Andy Phillip, a player on one of the best collegiate teams in collegiate records, an important backup to players as great as Bill Sharman and Bob Cousy on the first Celtic champion, and member of the Naismith Hall of Fame, elected in 1961.



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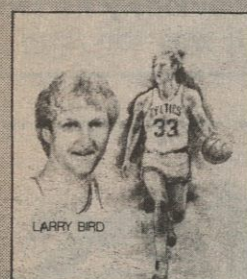
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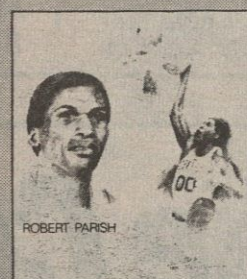
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TOM HEINSOHN presents ...



Larry Bird



Robert Parish



Kevin McHale



Danny Ainge



TOM HEINSOHN

LSC Art Productions is pleased to announce the release of a Limited Edition II portfolio containing four (4) lithograph drawings of Celtics 1986 Champion basketball stars Larry Bird, Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and Danny Ainge by former Celtics player/coach Tom Heinsohn. Each lithograph is on 100% Archival Rag Paper and is hand signed and numbered by Tom Heinsohn. A certificate of authenticity will accompany each portfolio and is limited to 2500 sets. Definitely a collectors item.

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